

Question No. 1

Program: DFAT

Topic: Workplace Harassment

Question on Notice Page: 5

Senator Fawcett

Question

How many cases of workplace bullying were reported in 2011-12? Include how that compares to previous years.

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) recorded 16 cases of workplace bullying for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Of these:

- four were inquiries seeking information and/or guidance about whether behaviour experienced/witnessed may have constituted workplace bullying. An assessment was made that these separate incidents did not constitute workplace bullying and no further action resulted from these inquiries;
- two cases were followed up as there were grounds for concern that workplace bullying may have taken place, but further inquiries indicated that no bullying had taken place;
- eight cases were followed up and handled through informal measures (e.g. mediation/conciliation); and
- two cases were formally investigated as an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

DFAT recorded seven cases of workplace bullying for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. Of these:

- one was an inquiry seeking information and/or guidance about whether behaviour experienced/witnessed may have constituted workplace bullying. An assessment was made that this incident did not constitute workplace bullying and no further action resulted from the inquiry;
- five cases were followed up and handled through informal measures (e.g. mediation/conciliation); and
- one case was formally investigated as an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

Question No. 2

Program: DFAT

Topic: Workplace Harassment

Question in Writing Page: 5

Senator Fawcett

Question

Can you also tell me whether there have been any changes to the system of reporting, and how incidents in the workplace are classified?

Answer

In March 2011 there was a change to the system of reporting cases of bullying by Workplace Diversity Contact Officers in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. As a result, the department's Workplace Diversity Unit (WDU) now sends cabled instructions every quarter to all divisions in Canberra, State/Territory Offices and overseas posts requesting that they provide a report to the WDU of any bullying cases that occurred during that three-month period. This helps ensure the WDU has visibility of all cases of bullying, especially those that may have been managed informally at posts.

Incidents are classified into the following five broad categories:

- informal approaches to the department's Workplace Diversity Unit/Workplace Diversity Contact Officer Network and/or Conduct and Ethics Unit that are classified as simply "seeking information and guidance" about bullying-related issues;
- inquiries seeking information and/or guidance about whether behaviour experienced/witnessed may have constituted workplace bullying, and an assessment was made that these separate incidents did not constitute workplace bullying and no further action resulted from these inquiries;
- situations where there are grounds for concern that workplace bullying may have taken place, but further inquiries indicated that no bullying had taken place ;
- incidents that are followed up and handled through informal measures (e.g. mediation/conciliation);
- incidents that are formally investigated as an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

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Question No. 3

Program: DFAT

Topic: Workplace Harassment

Question on Notice Page: 6

Senator Fawcett

Question

Would you take on notice to provide the committee with an indication of how many reports have been made that have not been rolled up into the departmental-level reporting?

Answer

The reports that have not been included in departmental-level reporting outlined in Question No. 1 involve informal approaches to the department's Workplace Diversity Unit/Workplace Diversity Contact Officer Network and/or Conduct and Ethics Unit that are classified as "seeking information and guidance" on bullying matters.

Question No. 4

Program: DFAT

Topic: Workplace harassment

Question on Notice Page: 6

Senator Fawcett

Question

Could you give us an indication as to how many reports have been made that have results in some kind of action against an employee, whether it be a fine, a demotion or even termination of employment?

Answer

In the 2011-12 reporting period, of the two cases that were formally investigated as an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, one case resulted in an employee being dismissed. The other case investigated found no evidence of bullying having taken place.

In the 2010-11 reporting period, of the single case that was formally investigated as an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, a decision was taken not to apply a sanction. Instead, given the circumstances of the case, the matter was handled managerially.

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Question No. 5

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular – Mr Zygier

Question on Notice

Page: 9

Senator Kroger

Question

When was that file (of Mr Zygier-Alon) actually opened?

Answer

The file of Benjamin Allen was opened in the Consular Management Information System (CMIS) on 21 December 2010.

Question No. 6

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular – Mr Zygier

Question on Notice

Page: 11

Senator Milne

Question

I suppose that is the judgement that I am referring to in terms of other Australian citizens who might find themselves in a similar situation. However the investigation will clearly go to that and go to why the decision was taken. And I certainly would ask that you take that on notice – that there is some response given to that to the Australian parliament. I want go on to ask you, Minister, about how you intend to progress this, apart from the issues of how this was dealt with from the Australian side. What are you going to do now in relation to seeking answers from the Israeli government? In particular, I understand that there was an investigation that went on for quite some time into the circumstances of the death, conducted by a judge. I am asking what action you are going to take now in terms of seeking answers from the Israeli government in relation to this case.

Answer

The report of the Secretary of DFAT is available on the public record, as is the media statement of Senator Carr.

Australia has no standing to conduct an independent investigation into the circumstances of Mr Zygier's death.

We await the outcome of the enquiry underway in Israel into the handling of this case by the Israeli authorities. We reserve the right to seek further information from Israel.

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Question No. 7

Program: DFAT

Topic: AUKMIN Communique

Question on Notice

Page: 15

Senator Kroger

Question

I want to go to the AUKMIN communique. I will read it out. It says:

“We call on Israel to stop settlement activity. All settlements are illegal under international law and settlement activity undermines the prospects for peace.”

Did the department receive any formal advice, communications, verbal, oral or written— I am now happy to be quite prescriptive - in relation to this matter?

Answer

No.

Question No. 8

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Travel

Question on Notice

Page: 16

Senator Kroger

Question

Out of the total number of trips he (Alexander Downer) had when foreign minister, how many of those did his wife, Nicky Downer, travel with him? I do not want to know about just the last year. Likewise, how many times did Mrs Smith travel with foreign minister Smith? When Kevin Rudd was foreign minister, how many times did Ms Rein travel with foreign minister Rudd during his time? Include the total number of trips each foreign minister had along with the number of times that their partners accompanied them.

Answer

The following table provides details of spouse accompanied travel for Foreign Ministers Downer, Smith and Rudd.

	Number of overseas visits	Number of visits accompanied by spouse
Mr Rudd (September 2010 to February 2012)	27	0
Ms Therese Rein		
Mr Smith (December 2007 to September 2010)	54	1
Ms Jane Seymour		
Mr Downer (March 1996 to December 2007)	166	38
Mrs Nicky Downer		

Question No. 9

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question on Notice

Page: 16

Senator Kroger

Question

In relation to your (Senator Carr) wife's official capacity, and being invited in an official capacity, which countries extended invitations to your wife for her to be involved in official activities?

Answer

Mrs Carr has received invitations from host governments for each official overseas trip she has undertaken with Senator Carr.

Question No. 10

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East

Question on Notice

Page: 17

Senator Kroger

Question

This goes to reports, Senator Carr, that you will present a four-point action plan to world leaders in an attempt to reduce Muslim anger towards an anti-Islamic movie, and your plan in relation to that. Could you outline what that four-point plan proposal is?

Answer

Senator Carr's media release of 21 September 2012 explains the plan:

"Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr today welcomed support from French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius for a four-point invitation to Islamic peoples to peacefully respond to things they considered disrespectful or blasphemous.

Senator Carr discussed the four-point invitation in a 90-minute meeting with Minister Fabius at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris.

The meeting took place on the same day that France ordered the temporary closure of 20 Middle East embassies following publication of anti-Islamic cartoons in a French satirical magazine.

Senator Carr said he could understand that many Muslims considered this material blasphemous but urged them to respond peacefully.

Senator Carr said they should be invited to do so by:

Funding explanations of Islam in western languages;

Producing formal online responses to anti-Islamic material

Funding institutes which promote tolerant Islam through teaching publications and seminars; and

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Using available legal avenues.

“All these responses would be more satisfactory than demonstrations which can be captured by extremists,” Senator Carr said.

“Demonstrations can bring out the worst, and as we saw in Australia they can produce understandable outrage from the rest of the community.

“The alternative is peaceful engagement.

“I welcome the support for our plan received today from my colleague Minister Fabius.

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Question No. 11

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East

Question on Notice

Page: 17

Senator Kroger

Question

So you have raised that plan with world leaders, already. It has been presented. When was it presented?

Answer

The plan was presented through Senator Carr's media release of 21 September 2012.

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Question No. 12

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East

Question on Notice

Page: 17

Senator Kroger

Question

Could you give me a list of who you have raised it with, which leaders and the date of when that took place. Have you communicated that plan with any foreign ministers? Do you have the details of that with you?

Answer

Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France, 20 September 2012

Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 21 September 2012

Question No. 13

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East

Question on Notice

Page: 17

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *Could you also give us, on notice, which foreign ministers you have raised it with, whether it was in correspondence or a direct communication, the date of that and whether you have received any responses or communications back to that plan?***
- B. *Have you received offers of support for that plan?***

Answer

- A.** Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France, in a meeting in Paris on 20 September 2012
- B.** Minister Fabius responded positively to the plan.

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Question No. 14

Program: DFAT

Topic: UNSC Taskforce

Question on Notice

Page: 19

Senator Kroger

Question

A. So you are looking at 28 in total, of which three are secondees – does that sound right? Can you put it on notice to provide us with a breakdown of the classification level of each of those positions?

B. When is Australia going to hold the rotating presidency?

Answer

A. Twenty-seven additional temporary DFAT positions, filled by Australia-based officers, have been created to support Australia's temporary membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). A breakdown by location and position level is as follows:

Location	Level	Number
Canberra	SES	2
	EL2	2
	APS6/EL1	7
	APS5	4
Australian Mission to the UN, New York	SES	1
	EL2	4
	APS6/EL1	4
Australian High Commission, Nairobi	APS6/EL1	1
Australian High Commission, Accra	APS6/EL1	1
Australian Embassy, Addis Ababa	APS6/EL1	1
	Total DFAT A-based positions	27

Three secondees from Australian Government agencies (one each from Defence, Australian Federal Police and AusAID) are attached to DFAT's Canberra-based UNSC task force. These positions have not been included in the figures above.

B. Australia will hold the Security Council Presidency twice in its two year term. Australia will assume its first presidency in September 2013. We expect to assume a second presidency in late 2014. The timing of the second presidency depends on which Member States are elected as non-permanent members for 2014.

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Question No. 15

Program: DFAT

Topic: Direct Aid Program

Question on Notice

Page: 21

Senator Rhiannon

Question

A. Can you provide a complete list of projects that have some connection with the Australian African Mining Industry Group – either direct involvement or undertaken in an area adjacent to where mining companies are operating. Include the name of the project, the location, the company involved and the name of any NGO that had been hired to facilitate the project and the nature of the project.

Answer

Name of Project	Location	Company	NGO	Nature of Project
Eau Vive Niger	Koutougou, SW Niger	Middle Island Resources	Eau Vive	Furniture, equipment and books for two new school blocks
Bannerman Resources Erongo	Erongo, Namibia	Bannerman Resources	Erongo Development Foundation (EDF)	Artisanal training and development program
Aviva Mining Community Project	Kakamega, West Kenya	Aviva Mining Kenya Ltd		Furniture, equipment and books to schools in Kakamega district
Mbalawala Women's Group	Ruanda, Tanzania	Intra Energy		Equipment for women's group
Resolute Tanzania Borehole Project	NW Tanzania	Resolute Tanzania		Drill water boreholes in Ngenza district
Zai Town Classroom Block Project	Zai Town, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia	Middle Island Resources Ltd (MIR)	Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Education Program (ECREP)	Construct school classroom block
Pouni-Nord Burkinabe Solar-Powered Water Project	Pouni-Nord, Didyr Commune, Sanguié,	Middle Island Resources Ltd (MIR)	Eau Vive	Install solar water pumping system, public tap stand and training

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	Burkina Faso			
Information Communication Technology (ICT) School Project	Bibiani, Western Region, Ghana	Noble Gold Bibiani Ltd (NGBL)		ICT equipment for Bibiana primary and junior secondary school
School water, sanitation and hygiene project	Teleku Bokazo and Anwia, Western Region, Ghana	Adamus Resources Ltd (subsidiary of Endeavour Mining Corporation)		Develop school water, sanitation campaign
Community Agriculture & Irrigation project	Dassa Commune, Sanguié Province, Burkina Faso	Middle Island Resources Ltd (MIR)	Eau Vive	Construct two irrigated market garden sites
Skills Training Program at Kikam Technical Training Institute	Western Region, Ghana	Adamus Resources Ltd (subsidiary of Endeavour Mining Corporation)		Provide training to 40 youth in computer hardware and mobile phone repairs
Permaculture Training Project	Lawra, Upper West Region, Ghana	Azumah Resources Ltd		Develop permaculture training project and construct demonstration farm
Youth Skills Training Project at Kikam Technical Institute	Kikam, Western Region, Ghana	Adamus Resources Ltd (subsidiary of Endeavour Mining Corporation)		Train 50 youth in employable skills (carpentry, plumbing, electrical)
Women's Vocational Training Institute Training and Capacity Building Programme	Axim, Western Region, Ghana	Adamus Resources Ltd (subsidiary of Endeavour Mining Corporation)		Capacity building and training program for job readiness
Mawson West Dikulushi Community Clinic Project, DR	Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo	Mawson West (DRC)		Construct borehole and solar panels
Solar Powered Electricity to Etrandweni Health Clinic	Traditional Authority of Mabulabo, Mzimba District, Northern Malawi	Globe Metals & Mining, Malawi		Construct solar powered electricity
Improvement to classrooms and facilities at Karonga School for Deaf Children	Karonga District., Northern District of Malawi	Paladin Energy	Friends and Employees of Paladin for African Children (FEPAC)	Construct three-classroom block and teacher's residence

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Question No. 16

Program: DFAT

Topic: Direct Aid Program

Question on Notice

Page: 21

Senator Rhiannon

Question

A. Were any applications (to DAP) from mining companies denied?

Answer

A. DFAT does not require that records of unsuccessful applications are kept. We are aware, however, that at least one application to DAP from a mining company in Africa was denied in 2011-12.

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Question No. 17

Program: DFAT

Topic: Direct Aid Program

Question on Notice

Page: 21

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Have companies or organisations that misuse funds, or where you have had some concerns about the project, been involved in a subsequent project?

Answer

No.

Question No. 18

Program: DFAT

Topic: Bulgaria – Consular/Counter-terrorism

Question on Notice

Page: 22

Senator Fawcett

Question

Can I take you to the incident in Bulgaria in July last year where an Australian was involved in a terrorist attack? Does the department have any updates on either the incident or subsequent actions that have been taken in Australia after that incident, given the involvement of an Australian national?

Answer

This is a matter for the Australian Federal Police which has operational carriage of the case. If an Australian is detained overseas in relation to this matter, DFAT would offer consular assistance in the usual way.

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Question No. 19

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia-Japan

Question on Notice

Page: 24

Senator Fawcett

Question

I would like to go to the recent Australia-Japan talks. Was anything raised by the Japanese during those talks about the recent appointment of previous Senator Bob Brown as the director of Sea Shepherd?

Answer

No.

Questions No. 20 & 21

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular - China

Question on Notice

Page: 25

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *I understand that an Australian journalist, Chris Buckley, was expelled from China either late last year or the beginning of this year. What can you tell us about that? Did we make official representations on his behalf to the appropriate authorities in China?***
- B. *I appreciate that he was working for the New York Times. Did he seek any interference from us in terms of the matter and any support?***

Answer

- A. Mr Buckley was in contact with the Embassy in Beijing in late 2012 and early 2013 to explain his situation, but, beyond seeking the contact details of consular staff in our Consulate-General in Hong Kong (which were provided), he did not seek consular assistance or other action from the Embassy. Accordingly, neither the Embassy nor DFAT made any representations to the Chinese authorities on his case at that time.
- B. Following more recent contact made by Mr Buckley, the Embassy in Beijing made official representations on this matter to the relevant Chinese authorities in late March 2013.

Question No. 22

Program: DFAT

Topic: AUSMIN talks

Question on Notice

Page: 25

Senator Fawcett

Question

During the AUSMIN talks there was an announcement about US-Australian radar systems being able to accurately track objects launched into orbit by China or Russia. Have either of these countries – China in particular in this part of the inquiry – made any comment to Australia in relation to that?

Answer

No such announcement was made at AUSMIN.

The 2012 AUSMIN joint communique announced cooperation between Australia and the United States to establish a jointly operated US C-Band space surveillance radar at the Harold E. Holt Naval Communication Station in Western Australia. The radar will enhance the United States Space Surveillance Network's ability to track man-made space objects orbiting Earth. This will provide satellite operators around the world with warnings of possible collisions with such space objects and thereby reducing the danger posed by space debris.

In relation to the AUSMIN announcement, DFAT is not aware of any inquiries by China, Russia or any other country.

Question No. 23

Program: DFAT

Topic: Myanmar

Question on Notice

Page: 27

Senator Rhiannon

Question

I have some questions about Burma. The UN Special Rapporteur's mandate is up for renewal in March. In his last report he expressed significant concern about the ongoing violation of human rights in Burma. Will Australia support the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burma for a further year?

Answer

Yes. The issue of extending the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar was considered most recently during the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, which took place from 25 February to 22 March. While Australia is not a member of the HRC, we can co-sponsor resolutions. We have co-sponsored resolutions concerning the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for Myanmar since Tomas Quintana was appointed in 2008, and have co-sponsored the relevant HRC resolution again in 2013. Australia values the important contributions of UN Special Rapporteurs in progressing human rights issues and we appreciate the work of Tomas Quintana in this role.

Question No. 24

Program: DFAT

Topic: Myanmar

Question on Notice

Page: 28

Senator Rhiannon

Question

I understand that the USA has implemented a reporting requirement for American companies investing in Burma. Under this requirement, companies will have to disclose their due diligence with regard to human rights and land acquisition. Has the government here looked at a similar process? And has there been any discussion on adopting a similar program? So, if you could take on notice whether we are considering doing it or whether there has been any consideration or any talks on this possibility, that would be appreciated.

Answer

No. The Government encourages Australian companies to conduct appropriate due diligence, exercise all reasonable precautions about who they are doing business with and, where necessary, obtain independent legal advice when considering investing in Myanmar, but does not require specific reporting of these activities.

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Question No. 25

Program: DFAT

Topic: Myanmar

Question on Notice

Page: 29

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Is Australia providing any support, financial or otherwise, to the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce? If so, what support is being provided?

Answer

The Australian Government is not providing support, either financial or in-kind, to the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce.

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Question No. 26

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question on Notice

Page: 55

Senator Kroger

Question

What is your staffing level in Bangkok?

Answer

It has been our long-standing practice not to provide the number of DFAT A-based staff at individual posts.

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Question No. 27

Program: DFAT

Topic: Zygier case

Question on Notice

Page: 32

Senator Kroger

Question

Are you aware of whether an official or representative from the Israeli government accompanied the body home to Australia?

Answer

As far as we are aware, Mr Zygier's remains were unaccompanied during their repatriation to Australia.

Question No. 28

Program: DFAT

Topic: USA

Question on Notice

Page: 33

Senator Kroger

Question

Staying on the Americas: this in relation to the AR15 weapon that was used in the recent US school shootings. I understand that there was a statement made by your minister on 24 October 2012 whereby you suggested that no weapons were produced in Australia. I quote: "There are no arms manufactured in Australia so the weapons that people use in crimes here are all imported and often imported illegally." Did you receive an advice from the department before you made that statement, specifically in relation to require arms?

Senator Carr: Can we check that quote?

Answer

The Minister receives regular briefings on international security matters including Australian efforts to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty that seeks to regulate the global trade in conventional weapons, and help eliminate illegal and irresponsible trade in these arms.

Question No. 29

Program: DFAT

Topic: Import of beef from countries with BSE in cattle

Question on Notice

Page: 33

Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan

Question

Three years ago I was in Canada. When they discovered I was there, they did not deport me but invited me to the rural committee of the parliament to discuss why Australia would not import beef from Canada. As I said to them in very simple language, 'If you could guarantee us that you do not have any BSE in your herd, we would talk to you. Until you have not, we may not talk to you.' Given that we very nearly agreed to import beef from the United States, and BSE has been reacting there—and there have been many reactors in Canada which has an open border, or did have. It is the same with Mexico—no national livestock identification from birth to death, et cetera. There is no such thing as a BSE-free herd because the only way to know if someone has not got BSE in a cow is to kill it. As you know, there is probably up to a 30-year incubation period for CJD in humans. It is endemic in Europe. Given that we have recently announced that we have agreed to take beef from some countries in Europe that have had BSE, and I will be dealing very ferociously with that, in a diplomatic sense and in terms of diplomatic pressure to accept these importations of beef from countries that have had BSE, is there a risk from your perspective, Minister, that the pressure to come to a trade arrangement could be more powerful than the arguments on biosecurity, which have to be based on science and the vagaries of science and health?

Given that we have never had a BSE reactor in Australia, and given that there are no such things as BSE-free zones in the United States, at a DFAT level have you (Senator Carr) or DFAT had discussions as to how they could facilitate diplomatically the entry of such products into Australia?

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Answer

Senator Carr has not had any discussions on how to diplomatically facilitate the import of beef from countries that have had bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has assisted Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) by providing information and responding to enquiries from trading partners on Australia's policy for imported food safety relating to beef and BSE.

Australia's laws, regulations and practices in relation to biosecurity and food safety are based on science and are consistent with its rights and obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization.

Question No. 30

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

Page: 43

Senator Rhiannon

Question

With respect to the document 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission', you would be aware that there was considerable international criticism, that there was inequity in many areas and that there are continuing calls for there to be an independent international investigation into the war crimes on both sides. Have you given consideration to that call?

Answer

The Australian Government has consistently stated that accountability is integral to reconciliation in Sri Lanka. An international criminal tribunal with jurisdiction over Sri Lanka's civil war could not be established without the consent of Sri Lanka or a Chapter VII UN Security Council resolution. The Government continues to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to take further action to implement the recommendations in the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Report and to investigate and prosecute all allegations of serious international crimes committed by both sides to the conflict in a transparent and independent manner.

Question No. 31

Program: DFAT

Topic: Open Government Partnership

Question on Notice

Page: 45

Senator Faulkner

Question

You said, Mr Rowe, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is serving on an IDC. What sort of level of representation does your department have on the IDC? Do you have available to you, and I appreciate you may not, a record of the meetings of the IDC? Do you have a record of the dates, times, places and attendance?

Answer

An inter-agency meeting on the Open Government Partnership was hosted by the Attorney-General's Department on 3 August 2012. It was chaired by the Attorney-General's Department at SES Band One level, and was attended at Director level by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

Question No. 32

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *In relation to Australian students who are studying and undertaking educational exchange programs overseas, do you provide specific advice to them, or is it in terms of the Smartraveller website, or is it incorporated on the advice that is given depending on which country they are actually studying in?***
- B. *Is there anything specific for overseas students? I am interested to know if there is any exchange-student-specific information that is particularly pertinent for students.***

Answer

- A. There is no specific advice provided on the Smartraveller website for Australian students who are studying and undertaking educational exchange programs overseas. Country-specific advice for all Australians is provided through the travel advice for each country. Advice to Australians travelling or living overseas is also provided through a range of pages on the website covering general issues or situations.
- B. There is no exchange student-specific information for overseas students provided on the Smartraveller website. Among the general advice pages, the “Living and working overseas” and “Backpacking” pages contain information that may be pertinent to students.

Question No. 33

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australian Passports

Question on Notice

Page: 55

Senator Fawcett

Question

Please give us an indication of how many Australian passports over the last five years on an annual basis have been identified to be fake passports, whether it is through AFP, Customs or international agencies?

Answer

The only incidents of “fake”, that is counterfeit, Australian passports we are aware of are those allegedly used in connection with the murder of Hamas figure Mahmoud al-Mabhouh about which the then Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith MP, made statements to Parliament on 25 February 2010 and 25 May 2010.

Question No. 34

Program: DFAT

Topic: Security for embassies overseas

Question on Notice

Page: 56

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *Has there been any reduction in the number of security personnel employed to guard Australian Embassies or High Commissions?***
- B. *I would like to verify the security clearance process for overseas missions, in particular whether the security checks on potential staff include their families.***

Answer

- A. Over the last two financial years there has been an overall net increase in security guard numbers at Australian embassies and high commissions.
- B. The security clearance process for staff at overseas missions follows the requirements of the *Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF)* and the Department's Security Manual (updated and reissued in February 2013). It is the same process used for staff based in Australia. While applicants for a security clearance must provide information relating to family members, all security checks relate directly to employees.

Question No. 35

Program: DFAT

Topic: Export of Live Cattle to Indonesia

Question on Notice

Page: 58

Senator Back

Question

Given the brevity of the time, could you take on notice and come back to the committee and advise us: what were the trade agreements or commitments or other obligations, including those under WTO, that Australia broke with Indonesia when we imposed the ban on the export of live cattle to Indonesia in 2011? I do not expect you to have that information, but it was obviously done without consultation with the Indonesians. I would be appreciative if you could provide that on notice for me.

Answer

Australia has the right under international trade rules to take action to ensure that Australian cattle are treated in accordance with international standards.

Question No. 36

Program: DFAT

Topic: Beef Trade with South Korea

Question on Notice Page: 58

Senator Nash

Question

Can I take you to our beef trade with South Korea. I notice on your website that you have listed beef exports between Australia and South Korea at \$770 million. Over what period was that?

The MLA has stated that beef exports are at \$632 million. I am trying to determine if the disparity in figures is simply a measurement assessment issue from each of the parties or if there is an actual discrepancy in one of the figures – one of them is not actually correct. Could you look at that for me?

Answer

The figure on the DFAT website for beef exports from Australia to South Korea is \$773 million and this is in respect of 2011 for fresh, chilled and frozen (fcf) beef. This figure appears in the Republic of Korea country brief. The MLA figure of \$632 million looks to be in respect of 2012, as per the table below displaying the value of beef exports to Korea, 2010 to 2012.

Australian exports of beef f.c.f. to South Korea: 2010 to 2012			
	CY2010	CY2011	CY2012
	A\$'000	A\$'000	A\$'000
Beef, f.c.f.	632,714	773,498	647,291

Question No. 37

Program: DFAT

Topic: Press article on Poongsan Corp withdrawing from a tender process.

Question on Notice

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Senator Nash

Question

Would a South Korean company pulling out of a bid with Australia citing sovereign risk – and I quote the Poongsan Corporation: “The sovereign risk the Australian program represents to Korean companies has become too large to ignore” be something that you are conscious of as to the impacts on trade? Is that something that has rung any alarm bells for you? It is on page 3 of the Australian Financial Review and you are not aware of it? Does no one read the paper in the department? Could you take on notice to ask somebody in your department to bring this to your attention, and could you provide the committee with your response as to the significance of that particular article?

Answer

DFAT sees articles of the type carried by the Australian Financial Review of 30 January, alleging “Australian sovereign risk”, from time to time. Poongsan Corporation has not raised this matter with DFAT officials or our Embassy in Seoul, and neither has the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK). ROK investment in Australia continues to increase strongly.

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Question No. 38

Program: DFAT

Topic: South Korea - Trade

Question on Notice

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Senator Nash

Question:

Can you take on notice for me, then, what you see those advantages as being (US having a tariff advantage) and what those advantages have been over the last 12 months for the US, and provide that to the committee? The investor state dispute settlement mechanism that South Korea wants to be in the FTA – is that the sticking point? Is that what is holding it up? What is our view on that?

Answer:

Under the Korea-United States FTA, Korea granted tariff concessions to the United States for all products except rice and rice-related tariff lines. The United States therefore has a preferential tariff compared to Australia for all products that Korea imposes tariffs on.

The investor-state dispute settlement mechanism is among a number of outstanding issues we are working on with the Korean Government to resolve in order to conclude an FTA. Treatment of Australian beef exports is also a key priority.

The Gillard government has explicitly stated in its Trade Policy Statement of April 2011 that Australia will not be seeking investor-state dispute settlement provisions in FTAs because of the disparity they create between the legal rights granted to foreign and domestic businesses.

The government is focused on achieving a timely and high quality outcome for this trade agreement, and which is balanced in accordance with the Trade Policy Statement.

Question No. 39

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Question on Notice

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Senator Rhiannon

Question

In response to the (Productivity) Commission's recommendation 9.6 dealing with funding proposals that have significant adverse environmental or social impacts, which includes three separate recommendations, the government's response document says, 'Agree in part' across all three. Could you clarify which parts are agreed to and which parts are not agreed to?

Answer

The wording "agreed in part" was used to acknowledge the fact that EFIC already discloses its prospective involvement in a transaction associated with a project that has potentially significant adverse environmental or social impacts, consistent with its international obligations and that EFIC also makes public its support to projects located in Australia after a transaction is signed. EFIC does not disclose its potential involvement in transactions associated with a category A project in Australia because such projects are subject to the approval requirements of the relevant State or Territory government and, where required, the Commonwealth Government and these assessment processes already provide for extensive public consultation.

In early 2011, EFIC adopted the *Policy and Procedure for Environmental and Social Review of Transactions* to replace its previous *Environment Policy (2005)*. An independent facilitator's report on the public consultations remains on EFIC's website.

EFIC engages an independent environmental and social expert to conduct an audit of EFIC's application of the Policy and Procedure every two years. Independent consultants, Net Balance Management Group Pty Ltd (Net Balance), undertook the first audit from September – November 2012 and a copy of the audit report is on EFIC's website.

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In July 2012 EFIC launched a Complaints Mechanism in addition to the existing customer feedback tool under EFIC's Customer Service Charter. Any party concerned about, affected or likely to be affected by EFIC's activities, including a project supported by an EFIC transaction, can utilise the Complaints Mechanism. EFIC will continue to be informed in its environmental and social policies and practices by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation Performance Standards, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises, the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, the Equator Principles and the OECD Common Approaches.

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Question No. 40

Program: EFIC

Topic: PNG LNG

Question on Notice

Senator Rhiannon

Question

PNG LNG developments. I was going to come to this later, but I notice that you said then 'on their next visit'. Because some of the information I received was that post the tragic mudslide, there was not the visit. Could you provide us with the date for the visit after the mudslide?

Answer

The next D'Appolonia visit following the mudslide was conducted from March 13 – 29, 2012. The report on this visit is available on the PNG LNG website dated March 2012. http://www.pnglng.com/quarterly_reports/previous_iesc_reports.html

Question No. 41

Program: DFAT

Topic: Zygiel case

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. Was the then Foreign Minister (Smith) or Prime Minister (Rudd) informed of Ben Zygiel's detention in an Israeli prison in 2010?**
- B. When exactly was the then Foreign Minister told and by whom?**
- C. If the then Foreign Minister wasn't informed of Mr Zygiel's detention, why did the Department not inform him?**
- D. During the Estimates hearing on Thursday, February 14 the following exchange took place regarding when the Department would be able to answer all of the relevant questions on the case:**

Senator KROGER: Mr Varghese, can you give us a time frame of when you believe that you will be across the relevant material for us all to be fully informed of the situation?

Mr Varghese: I hope that we can be in that position in the not-too-distant future. I would hope towards the end of next week that we would be able to answer, one way or another, the questions you have raised and other questions that still remain to be addressed.

When was the Department able to ascertain all of the relevant facts in this case so as to answer questions posed during Senate Estimates?

- E. When did the Department complete its investigation?**
- F. When did the Department provide a full report of its investigation to Minister Carr?**
- G. When did the Department and/or Minister hold a briefing for the media to respond to further questions on this case?**

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Answer

- A. The Department provided oral advice to the then Foreign Minister's Chief of Staff about Mr Zygier's detention in the latter half of February 2010, but sent no further briefing or advice and no formal record of the oral advice was kept. The then Foreign Minister's Chief of Staff does not recollect the conversation and there is nothing to suggest that the Foreign Minister himself was briefed. The Department was told on 24 February 2010 that the Prime Minister's Office had been briefed, although the Prime Minister was not briefed at that time.
- B. As above, there is nothing to suggest that the Foreign Minister himself was briefed.
- C. Further action by the Department to inform the Minister was not judged necessary.
- D. Senator Carr released the report of the Secretary of DFAT on 6 March 2013, which outlines the Department's handling of the consular aspects of the case.
- E. The Department completed its investigation on 5 March 2013.
- F. The Department provided its completed investigation to Senator Carr on 5 March 2013.
- G. Senator Carr held a press briefing on 6 March 2013 in which he presented the DFAT report and responded to media questions.

Question No. 42

Program: DFAT

Topic: Itinerary for Helena Carr during overseas trips

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

During the Estimates Hearing Senator Kroger asked the Minister that it be taken on notice, “In relation to your wife’s official capacity, and being invited in an official capacity, which countries extended invitations to your wife for her to be involved in official activities?”

- A. Is the Department involved in managing the invitations extended to Mrs Carr?***
- B. Does the Department have input into which invitations Mrs Carr accepts and declines?***
- C. If the Department isn’t involved in this process, who provides guidance on which invites Mrs Carr should accept/decline?***
- D. Who has responsibility for co-ordinating Mrs Carr’s itinerary on overseas trips?***
- E. Minister Carr mentioned in the Estimates hearing that “my wife is there, invited by organisations and attending the functions, as she did in the South Pacific, visiting women’s refuges, speaking to refugee women and performing other functions that are useful”. Is the focus of Mrs Carr’s itinerary usually on visiting organisations and attending functions with a focus on women and women’s issues?***

Answer

- A.** The department is involved in planning and preparation for all overseas Ministerial travel, including programs for Mrs Carr.
- B.** No.
- C.** The Foreign Minister’s Office provides this guidance.
- D.** Refer A and C.
- E.** Mrs Carr’s overseas programs include, but are not exclusive to, visiting organisations and attending functions with a focus on women and women’s issues.

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Question No. 43

Program: DFAT

Topic: Resources for United Nations Security Council Seat

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *Minister Carr confirmed during the Estimates hearing that \$27.5 million has been budgeted for to support the UN Security Council seat for 2013-14. Can the Department clarify how much funding it sought to support the seat for 2013-14?***
- B. *Can you provide details of how the \$1.7million in capital expenditure will be spent?***

Answer

- A. Following due consideration, the Government allocated \$27.5 million over three years to support Australia's term on the UN Security Council.
- B. The \$1.7 million in capital funds will be used to purchase: IT equipment; residential furniture and equipment; office fit out; security equipment and fit out; and office vehicles.

Question No. 44

Program: DFAT

Topic: Prime Minister's involvement in Foreign Affairs

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. How many times per week do the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister discuss international affairs?***
- B. Are regular meetings (via phone or in-person) scheduled? How often do these occur?***
- C. Which staff from the offices of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister meet to discuss foreign affairs and how often does this occur?***
- D. How do the PM and FM offices co-ordinate international visits and summits? Who takes the lead? Who was deciding for example that the Prime Minister would participate in the Indonesian Democracy Forum in Bali?***

Answer

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister meet and discuss foreign policy matters on a regular basis.

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Question No. 45

Program: DFAT

Topic: Appointment of former Senator Bob Brown as Sea Shepherd director

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *Did Japanese officials make any representations to the Department or Minister regarding the appointment of former Senator Bob Brown to the position of Sea Shepherd director?***
- B. *If yes, what was the nature of these representations?***

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Answer

A. No.

B. N/A

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Question No. 46

Program: DFAT

Topic: Myanmar

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. I understand that Prime Minister Gillard met with the President of Burma during her six-day trip to South-East Asia in November. Was the Foreign Minister part of this delegation? If not, what was his itinerary during this time period?***
- B. What topics were discussed between the Prime Minister and the President of Burma during the meeting?***
- C. Is it correct that – as reported in the media – the Prime Minister suggested resuming defence ties with Burma? Did the Department provide advice to the PM on the resumption of defence co-operation with Burma?***
- D. Burmese president Thein Sein cancelled a trip to Australia in December at the last minute. Has the visit been rescheduled? When is the president expected to visit Australia?***

Answer

- A. No. Senator Carr was on official travel to Malaysia at the time.**
- B. In her meeting with the President of Myanmar, the Prime Minister discussed a range of matters, including the bilateral relationship, recent developments in Myanmar, and regional issues.**
- C. No. No.**
- D. Myanmar President Thein Sein visited Australia from 17-20 March.**

Question No. 47

Program: DFAT

Topic: Dialogue between US Secretary of State and Foreign Minister

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *How many times has the Foreign Minister been in direct contact with the new US Secretary of State, Senator John Kerry?***
- B. *On what dates did this contact occur and what was discussed each time?***
- C. *When will the Foreign Minister and his US counterpart hold their first meeting in person?***
- D. *Did the government present a gift to the outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton? What was this gift and what did it cost?***

Answer

- A. Senator Carr has been in direct contact with Secretary Kerry three times following his confirmation as Secretary of State.
- B. Following Secretary Kerry's confirmation as Secretary of State, Senator Carr first spoke with him by phone on the morning of Sunday 10 February. They discussed a range of issues, including the US rebalance to the Asia Pacific, the UN Security Council, Middle East issues, negotiations towards an Arms Trade Treaty, climate change and oceans.

Senator Carr and Secretary Kerry held their first bilateral meeting in Washington on the morning of Monday 18 March 2013. They discussed the US rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, our joint force posture initiatives, the Middle East Peace Process, North Korea, the South China Sea, Southeast Asia, negotiation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Myanmar, the Pacific, Syria, oceans and climate change.

On the evening of 18 March, Senator Carr and Secretary Kerry both spoke at an event organised by the National Geographic Society and the Pew Charitable Trusts to promote efforts to establish a marine protected area in Antarctica's Ross Sea.

- C. As mentioned above, Senator Carr and Secretary Kerry held their first meeting in person in Washington on the morning of Monday 18 March 2013.

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D. On the occasion of the Guest of Government visit to Australia by the then Secretary of State, the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, for the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations which was held in Perth in November 2012, Mrs Clinton was presented with the following gifts:

- The Prime Minister presented her with an Australian designed necklace and earrings to the value of \$285.
- Senator Carr presented her with a framed painting by Maggie Bird Mpetyane to the value of \$280.

We are not aware of any other gifts that may have been presented to Secretary Clinton by other ministers.

Question No. 48

Program: DFAT

Topic: Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

There have been media reports recently that female genital mutilation (FGM) is on the rise in Egypt.

A. Is the Department aware of this?

B. What information does the Department have regarding the current prevalence of FGM in Egypt?

Answer

- A. The Department is not aware of media reports that female genital mutilation is on the rise in Egypt.
- B. The Department understands that although female genital mutilation was criminalised in Egypt in 2008, the practice is still carried out. The Department does not have statistics which detail the incidence of female genital mutilation in Egypt. We co-sponsored a resolution on eliminating the harmful practice of female genital mutilation adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2012.

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Question No. 49

Program: DFAT

Topic: Russian ban on US adoptions

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

What does the Department consider to be the implications, if any, of the recent introduction of a ban on Americans adopting children from Russia?

Answer

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for bilateral adoption agreements with other countries, and advises that there are no implications for Australia as Australia does not have an adoption program with Russia. Further queries regarding adoption arrangements should be directed to the Attorney-General's Department.

Question No. 50

Program: DFAT

Topic: Strategic partnership with Germany

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *Australia has signed a bilateral strategic partnership with Germany to institutionalise regular high-level policy dialogues between the two countries. Please provide further details of the partnership, including how often representatives from the two countries will meet.***
- B. *What outcomes do you expect from this strategic partnership?***
- C. *How many 'bilateral strategic partnerships' does Australia have? With which countries?***

Answer

- A.** The Berlin-Canberra Declaration of Intent on a Strategic Partnership (Strategic Partnership) between Australia and Germany was signed on 28 January 2013 by the Australian and German Foreign Ministers, Senator Bob Carr and Dr Guido Westerwelle. It provides a framework for enhanced cooperation by institutionalising annual consultations at ministerial and senior-officials levels. It also establishes principles and priority areas for cooperation in the following areas: strategic policy; security and defence cooperation; economic relations, trade and investment; energy and resources, climate change, and clean technology; international development assistance cooperation; education, science and research; culture, media and people-to-people links; and social and labour policy.
- B.** The Strategic Partnership will enhance the level of dialogue and cooperation between Australia and Germany. Germany is the world's 4th largest economy, as well as being the EU's most populous member state and largest single economy. It is a major development assistance and science and research partner for Australia, with significant trade and investment links. The Strategic Partnership will work to ensure both countries' key interests within the bilateral relationship are recognised at the most senior levels in government. The Annex to the Strategic Partnership, which is publicly available online, lists a number of initiatives/ work streams to be advanced under the priority areas for cooperation noted above.
- C.** Australia currently has nine 'Strategic Partnerships', with: ASEAN, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and the United States. Australia has comprehensive arrangements for consultation and cooperation with other key partner countries that are not titled 'Strategic Partnerships'.

Question No. 51

Program: DFAT

Topic: Construction of new Australian embassy in Jakarta

Question in writing

Senator Kroger

Question

- A. *What is the value of the architectural and design contract that was awarded to Denton Corker Marshall?***
- B. *What is the value of the project management contract that was awarded to Thinc Projects?***
- C. *What is the cost of the Department's own IT installations?***
- D. *What is the value of the direct security costs that would be capitalised?***
- E. *What is the value of the operating costs incurred in the delivery of the project?***
- F. *What is the value of the construction material being brought from Australia?***
- G. *What is the status of the discussions with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding waiving the VAT costs of material brought from Australia for the embassy? Has the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed to waive or reduce the VAT? What are the savings associated with this?***

Answer

- A. The value of the architectural and design contract awarded to Denton Corker Marshall is \$15.8 million.
- B. The value of the project management contract awarded to Thinc Projects is \$6.7 million.
- C. The cost of the Department's IT installations is \$1.85 million.
- D. The value of the direct security costs is \$71.1 million.
- E. The value of the operating costs incurred in the delivery of the project is \$18 million.
- F. Contractors are currently procuring major items of plant, equipment and materials. Until such time as those procurements are completed, the value of Australian-sourced material is unknown.

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- G. Indirect tax concession arrangements are negotiated bilaterally on the basis of reciprocity. Following negotiations between DFAT and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (KEMLU), DFAT has proposed an updated bilateral arrangement which will provide indirect tax concessions for construction and renovation arrangements, including the current Australian embassy construction project in Jakarta. KEMLU has given “in principle” agreement to DFAT’s proposal; however, internal Indonesian Government agreement (with the Tax Office of the Ministry of Finance) is required for the updated arrangement for concessions to take effect. This approval process is similar to that in Australia. The construction project budget has been developed and approved on a VAT exclusive basis. Therefore, in the event that favourable resolution of this matter is achieved, no savings will be recognised against the approved budget.

Question No. 52

Program: EFIC

Topic: Small/medium enterprise sector

Question in Writing

Senator Kroger

Question

Does EFIC work much in the SME (small medium enterprise) sector? I refer to the statement from the Minister for Trade on 29 January 2013, “EFIC Reforms to help business in Asia.”, 29 January 2013. The Minister said: “Small and medium-sized enterprises exporting to Asia will benefit most from changes to the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation.” What are the changes to EFIC that will enable you to offer products to small businesses? Do these changes involve new products that EFIC can offer? If so, what are the new financial products you are offering? The Minister also said: “EFIC will apply a new market failure test that will help it determine an exporter’s eligibility for its financial products and services.” Can you expand on this market failure test? Can you outline EFIC’s resource allocation (human resources and other) that will be deployed to these new products?

Answer

In the past 7 years, EFIC’s support for SME clients (generally with turnover of less than \$150 million) has grown from \$26 million in 2006-07 to \$196.5 million in facilities signed in 2011-12. In 2011-12 EFIC signed a total 104 facilities worth a total of \$1 billion to support Australian exporters, of these facilities 95 supported EFIC’s SME and Mid-Market clients across a wide range of products and sectors. Therefore, while in number terms over 90 per cent of EFIC’s clients are SMEs, in value terms SMEs are less than 20 per cent. The reforms to EFIC include a new definition of SME to cover businesses with turnover of less than \$100m or less than 100 employees, compared to EFIC’s current definition of turnover of less than \$150 million). EFIC advised in its supplementary submission to the Productivity Commission Review that its SME clients typically have a turnover between \$20 million and \$80 million.

For an account of EFIC’s activity in the SME sector see pages 16-17 of EFIC’s 2012 Annual Report available here:

<http://www.efic.gov.au/about/governance/AnnualReports/Pages/AnnualReport.aspx>.

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Amendments to the EFIC Act being proposed by the Government will introduce a market failure test and the requirement that EFIC focus its Commercial Account business on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The proposed new legislation will broaden EFIC's existing guarantee powers to enable it to provide guarantees to overseas subsidiaries of Australian-based SMEs where the purpose of the guarantee supports Australian export trade, and where the SME certifies that the guarantee will not result in a net reduction in the number of its employees in Australia during the term of EFIC's guarantee. EFIC will need to consider what further changes to its products and services will be necessary, if any, to underpin its new focus on SMEs and will allocate resources as appropriate.

The market failure test will specify that EFIC support for exporters (on the basis of export contracts, eligible export transactions or Australian export trade) should be based on evidence of:

- inadequate information about the credit risk and standing of an Australian exporter (or SMEs 'integral' to the domestic supply chain for export-focused projects), foreign buyer or the foreign buyer's bank, which has resulted in private financial providers employing rigid generalised rules and not forming an assessment on the merits of the transaction;
- inadequate information about the value of some tradeable capital goods or the existence of liquid secondary markets for these goods, which has resulted in private sector financial providers refusing to provide services for transactions involving such goods; or
- inadequate information about the risk associated with emerging and frontier country export markets or emerging and frontier country outward investment destinations, which has resulted in private sector financial providers refusing to provide products or services for transactions in those markets.

EFIC is considering how it will implement the Government's proposed legislative amendments and is unable to provide information on the human resource implications at this stage.

Question No. 53

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER – timelines and sectoral interests

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

The roadmap for PACER-Plus covers the commencement of negotiations in services and investment.

- A. When are negotiations looking to start on both of those areas?*
- B. What are Australia's specific sectoral interests in these areas?*

Answer

- A. Initial discussions on services and investment are expected to take place at an inter-sessional PACER Plus meeting being held in Port Vila in early April 2013.
- B. At this very early stage of the discussions, Australia's specific sectoral interests in the areas of services and investment are yet to be identified.

Question No. 54

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER – SPS and TBT negotiations

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

PACER-Plus negotiations on Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) have resulted in agreement that Island nations that are not WTO members will not be bound to apply the WTO consistent measures and instead will be supported in applying them through assistance from Australia and New Zealand.

- A. Will DFAT commit to a continuation of that flexibility in other areas of negotiations, particularly allowing Island nations to make non-GATS consistent commitments on Services?***
- B. Will Australia be looking to have Parties to the PICTA TIS (Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement Trade in Services) agreement make additional commitments in under any negotiations on services in PACER-Plus?***

Answer

- A. Where appropriate, Australia will take a flexible approach in the PACER Plus negotiations to the development of treaty provisions relating to non-WTO member Forum Island countries. A number of Forum Island countries are WTO members and have therefore taken on WTO GATS obligations as part of their WTO membership. Initial discussions on services and investment are expected to take place at an inter-sessional PACER Plus meeting being held in Port Vila in early April 2013.
- B. Negotiations for the Pacific Islands Countries' Trade Agreements Trade in Services Protocol concluded in 2012. In August 2012 the Protocol was opened for signature for a period of one year. Country specific commitments under the Protocol are not yet publicly available. As of December 2012, nine countries had signed the Protocol, namely the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Australia is not aware of any countries that have become a party to the Protocol. Similarly, to date, Australia is not aware that the Protocol has entered into force. Australia will take into account the Protocol, as well as other factors such as relevant WTO obligations and the capacities of non-WTO Forum Island countries, in future discussions on services in the PACER Plus negotiations. Initial discussions on services are expected to take place at an inter-sessional PACER Plus meeting being held in Port Vila in early April 2013.

Question No. 55

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER – Seasonal Workers Program

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

What is DFAT's position on the extension of the Seasonal Workers Program to include other sectors in the context of negotiating such an outcome in PACER-Plus?

Answer

Regional labour mobility is a priority issue for Forum Island Countries in the PACER Plus negotiations. Provisions for unskilled and less-skilled workers are not included in Australia's WTO GATS commitments or in our other trade agreements. Taking into account Australia's Most Favoured Nation commitments in other agreements, Australia supports negotiating labour mobility provisions in PACER Plus that do not disadvantage Forum Island countries. These issues are still being discussed in PACER Plus, along with a number of other labour issues.

The Seasonal Worker Program currently allows approved Australian employers in the horticulture industry to employ workers from eight Pacific Island nations and Timor-Leste, when there are not enough Australian workers available to meet seasonal demands. The Government is running a three year trial of the use of seasonal workers with accommodation providers, aquaculture ventures, and cotton and cane growers.

Question No. 56

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- A. *Will Australia commit additional funding for further research into the social impacts of PACER-Plus as well as ongoing consultations at both the national and regional levels?***
- B. *Under the Development Assistance negotiations will DFAT commit to providing funding for both implementation and development assistance in line with Pacific Islands' requests?***

Answer

- A. Australia has offered funding to enable each Forum Island country to obtain a report on PACER Plus under the Trade Research Initiative. At the request of Forum Island countries, social issues may be addressed as part of the Trade Research Initiative report. The majority of Forum Island countries have benefited from the Trade Research Initiative. The remainder of Forum Island countries are being encouraged to take up the Trade Research Initiative offer and they may nominate research on social issues as part of the associated terms of reference for the report. In addition, consultants undertaking the development of past Trade Research Initiative reports for Forum Island countries have sometimes held meetings with interested non-state actors in Forum Island countries. As the remainder of Forum Island countries take up the Trade Research Initiative offer, they may decide to have meetings with interested stakeholders.

Australian domestic consultations on PACER Plus commenced in August 2009 and are ongoing. Consistent with usual practice, DFAT maintains up-to-date web information on the negotiations, provides opportunities for stakeholders to submit written views, and has meetings with stakeholders on request.

Australia continues to support the October 2009 decision by Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers to hold annual regional Dialogues with interested Non State Actors. Australia has contributed funds for two regional Dialogues with interested Non State Actors, most recently in March 2012.

- B. Australia has offered to provide assistance with respect to implementation of PACER Plus as part of the negotiations.

Question No. 57

Program: DFAT

Topic: Direct Aid Program

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- A. *Paladin Energy has received DAP funds. Is AusAID aware of serious allegations against Paladin in Malawi and have these allegations caused DFAT to reassess Paladin as a receiver of DAP funds?***
- B. *What guidelines exist for reviewing current environmental and social impact assessments for mining companies DFAT chooses to partner with through the DAP program?***
- C. *Are the mining companies responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the projects they receive DAP funding for or does AusAID or DFAT independently monitor these as well? Are these monitoring or evaluation reports made public? What action can DFAT take if they are not satisfied with the recipient's use of the DAP funding?***

Answer

- A.** DFAT and AusAID are aware of allegations made by online newspaper *The Marvai Post*, in an article published on 26 October 2011, that Paladin Energy engaged in corrupt processes. The article also implied that the company was knowingly involved in the death of a prominent student and civil society activist. *The Marvai Post* subsequently published a correction on 22 November 2011 withdrawing the allegations as false. In October 2012, the Chair of Malawi's Human Rights Commission, Ambassador Sophie Kalinde, confirmed there was no substance to allegations that Paladin Energy was involved in the activist's death.

Local media reported in January 2013 that Paladin Energy had lodged a complaint with Malawi's Anti-Corruption Bureau following an alleged approach to the company by a senior Malawian figure soliciting a payment of approximately US\$1 million.

Separately, Paladin has refuted allegations of bribery made in Malawi's National Assembly in November 2012 by a Member of Parliament. In doing so, Paladin reaffirmed that bribery is a breach of company policy. According to local media reporting, the claims are not being investigated by Malawi's Anti-Corruption Board. This is a matter for the Malawian Government.

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Australia's Ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission in Harare visited the Kayelekera Mine site in November 2012, visiting several community projects funded by Paladin and observing a consultation meeting between Paladin management and local business leaders and community groups. Paladin has carried out 82 community projects in Karonga and areas surrounding the Kayelekera Mine, at a cost of more than \$16 million. This has included providing a state-of-the-art water treatment plant for the Karonga town water supply, costing more than \$10 million; the construction and upgrade of several schools in the immediate area around the mine site; significant improvements to the Karonga hospital; and significant support – including from Paladin employees – for a school for the deaf. In addition to the significant positive impact of the community work, the Kayelekera Mine is driving employment and other economic growth benefits for northern Malawi, including through a commitment to local procurement (for example, 85-90 per cent of perishable food for workers is procured from Karonga producers).

Based on Paladin's response to the allegations made, and its conduct within Malawi, and across Africa more generally, DFAT is confident of Paladin Energy's suitability as a partner for the delivery of DAP projects.

- B. All decisions about the allocation of DAP funds are subject to the DAP guidelines. The DAP is managed by DFAT at Australia's overseas posts and is available to registered NGOs, organisations and individuals working on development activities on a not-for-profit basis. This includes potential co-funding with private companies conducting not-for-profit development activities. In accordance with the guidelines, applications are assessed on their merits in line with development criteria and objectives established by DFAT, AusAID and each post. All successful projects must demonstrate clear humanitarian or development outcomes for a disadvantaged group of people. Projects must also fall within the OECD Development Assistance Committee sectors. Under the DAP guidelines, posts must have in place well-defined risk management strategies and transparent accountability processes and be able to justify their selection processes when reporting on their annual DAP allocation expenditure. Further details about the DAP guidelines can be found at http://www.dfat.gov.au/direct_aid_program/dap_guidelines.html.
- C. Posts are responsible for the management of their respective DAP programs, and are required to make best endeavours to confirm that a project is on track to be completed within the agreed timeframe through evaluation of regular progress reports and photographs of the projects and through site visits where practical and/or cost-effective. Advice from regional governments, local councils, NGOs or local cooperatives may also be sought to evaluate whether a project is on track to be completed as required. Posts must also fully acquit all DAP projects. Reports on DAP projects are not made public. There are a number of measures DFAT can take or initiate as appropriate if it is not satisfied with a recipient's use of DAP funding. These include referral of the case to AusAID's Audit Section and DFAT's Conduct Ethics and Fraud Unit for further investigation; efforts to recover misappropriated funds and assets; and investigation and prosecution of the offenders by local authorities, as appropriate.

Question No. 58

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC reforms following Productivity Commission Report

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

When does EFIC or DFAT anticipate the reforms accepted by the government from the Productivity Commission will be put to parliament to amend the EFIC Act? Will these come in an omnibus bill with all the reforms accepted by the government? Will the reforms be put into legislation or operationalised within the next 6 months? If not all of the reforms, which ones do you anticipate will be put into legislation or operationalised within the next 6 months? Will EFIC provide public justifications for approvals from the National Interest Account facility as well as a process for facilitating Parliamentary and public scrutiny? If so, what exactly will this process be and what is the timeline for implementing this process? Will EFIC provide public information on the performance of National Interest Account facilities, including progress against the fulfilment of Action Plans established to avoid or mitigate negative environmental or social impacts?

Answer

Legislation giving effect to the Government's response to the Productivity Commission Report on Australia's Export Credit Arrangements was introduced into the House of Representatives in the last week of the Autumn sittings of Parliament. EFIC will need to consider what changes to its structure and processes will be necessary to implement the proposed new legislation.

The Government undertakes a detailed assessment of the risks and benefits of proposed transactions on the National Interest Account (NIA) and provides clear public explanations of the reasons for providing facilities on the NIA. In addition, information on the performance of the NIA is disclosed in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Portfolio Budget Statements.

EFIC currently provides information on the facilities signed during a financial year in its on-line register and Annual Report. This information includes the name of the firm, the facility type, the amount of the facility and the environmental category.

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Question No. 59

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?**
- B. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?**
- C. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?**

Answer

- A. As at 31 January 2013, 10 ongoing officers have commenced with the department at the following classifications:

Level	No of Ongoing Officers
APS1-5	5
APS6/EL1	5
EL2	0
SES	0
Total	10

- B. As at 31 January 2013, there were 69 non-ongoing officers working in the department at the following classifications:

Level	No of Non-Ongoing Officers
APS1-5	50
APS6/EL1	15
EL2	4
SES	0
Total	69

- C. As at 31 January 2013, there were 312 contractors engaged by the Department through contracting agencies and panel arrangements. The average length of these contracts is six months.

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Question No. 60

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?**
- B. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?**
- C. How many contract staff left department/agency in the year this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?**

Answer

- A. As at 31 January 2013, 70 ongoing APS staff separated from the department. A breakdown of these officers by level is as follows:

Level	No of Officers
BB1/2	22
APS6/EL1	30
EL2	10
SES	8
Total	70

- B. As at 31 January 2013, there were 76 instances of non-ongoing APS staff separating from the department. It should be noted that non-ongoing officers may separate several times during a year. A breakdown of these separations by level is as follows:

Level	No of Non-Ongoing Separations
APS1-5	39
APS6/EL1	27
EL2	7
SES	3
Total	76

- C. Due to the differing mechanisms by which contractors are engaged and therefore terminated (through contracting agencies, panel arrangements or service contracts), the department does not record this information centrally. Contractors are not engaged at specific APS classifications.

Question No. 61

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.***
- B. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.***

Answer

- A. The department is currently expecting a modest decrease, in the order of 16 FTE, in staff levels over the course of the 2012-13 financial year. There is no firm reduction target and no services or programs are expected to be cut as a result of the projected decrease in the staffing levels.
- B. Staff reductions form part of the department's response to the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook savings measures announced in November 2011.

Question No. 62

Program: DFAT

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012

http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html

In addition, please provide the following detail:

- A. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel? Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*
- B. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*
- C. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*

Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

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Answer

- A. The Whole-of-Australian Government (WoAG) travel arrangements are coordinated procurements established by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). For further information on these procurements please refer to the Government's Travel Policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2012/04) and Best Fare of the Day for International Travel (Finance Circular No. 2012/05).
- B. Consultants – Yes. All details of planned consultancies are published in DFAT's Annual Procurement Plan on the AusTender website.
Contractors – Yes, a net reduction is expected but it is not possible to quantify at this stage.
- C. The department moved recruitment advertising online on 1 July 2012 in accordance with the Department of Finance and Deregulation's 'Non-campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy' of June 2012. All recruitment advertising since 1 July 2012 has been online. Future recruitment advertisements will be online only, except in rare instances where a particular print media is identified as the most appropriate means of attracting applicants with highly specialised skills. It is difficult to estimate savings over the forward estimates due to natural fluctuations in the volume and type of recruitment advertising conducted year to year.
- D. Additional:
- As printing falls under the responsibility of each individual area in the Department, to provide details of all documents and quantities printed would entail significant diversion of resources, and in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question No. 63

Program: DFAT

Topic: Printing costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer

As printing falls under the responsibility of each individual area in the Department, to provide details of all documents and quantities printed would entail significant diversion of resources, and in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.

The Department's public website contains further information on DFAT publications.

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Question No. 64

Program: DFAT

Topic: Graduate Recruitment

Question in Writing

Senator: Eggleston

Question

- A. *How much has been spent on 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.***
- B. *Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.***

Answer

- A. As at 28 February 2013, the department incurred \$15,272.30 (including GST) in recruitment costs for the 2014 Policy and Corporate Graduate intake. This recruitment process is still underway. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

Advertising (online ads)	13,832.71
Brochures	1,439.59

- B. No travel costs have yet been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment.

Question No. 65

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question on Notice: Written

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How much was spent on 2013 Graduate Training?***
- B. *Provide details of what training was provided, why and the estimated cost for each.***

Answer

- A. Course planning for the 2013 graduate intake is yet to be finalised. We estimate expenditure in the order of \$548,000 in 2013.
- B. Graduates undertake a two-year training program which includes on-the-job training, professional skills development and academic gap-filling courses. Training is either provided in-house or by an external provider. Contracts for externally provided courses have not yet been finalised for 2013 so costs are not yet known.

Courses will include:

APSC Graduate Events

Australia's Strategic Interests

Consular Training

DFAT Writing Skills

Human Rights

Induction Training

International Relations

Introduction to Australian Foreign and Trade Policy

Introduction to Economics

Introduction to Export

Introduction to Financial Management

Introduction to International Law

Modern Diplomacy and Representation Skills

Negotiation Skills

Presentation and Networking Skills

Trade Policy

World Trading System

Question No. 66

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?***
- B. *Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.***
- C. *Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.***
- D. *Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.***
- E. *Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.***
- F. *Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.***
- G. *What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?***

Answer

- A. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on advertising (including the Smartraveller campaign) was \$2.178 million.**

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- B. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on advertising (including the Smartraveller campaign) was \$2.178 million. The businesses that provided Smartraveller advertising services were The Campaign Palace, JWT, Universal McCann, Professional Public Relations and Etcom.
- C. The Department of Finance and Deregulation provided advice on Smartraveller campaign advertising throughout its development.
- D. Yes, in relation to the Smartraveller campaign.
- E. The Department's policies comply with the "Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by the Australian Government Departments and Agencies" as set by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- F. There was no other communications program.
- G. Non-campaign expenditure is expected to remain consistent. The Smartraveller campaign will continue in 2012-13.

Question No. 67

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- E. *What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- F. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- G. *What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- H. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- I. *Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?***

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Answer

- A. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on hospitality and entertainment was \$2.956 million. The department does not keep separate records for hospitality and entertainment and only the total cost is available.

Details of specific hospitality and entertainment events are maintained on individual files across DFAT's domestic and overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

- B. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's year to date expenditure in 2012-13 on hospitality and entertainment for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office is nil.

C. Refer to A.

D. Refer to B.

- E. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's planned hospitality and entertainment expenditure for 2012-13 is \$4.783 million, which is similar to expenditure patterns in 2011-12 (\$4.886 million).

Details and breakup of costs are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

- F. The Department's projected hospitality and entertainment expenditure for portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in 2012-13 is expected to be similar to expenditure patterns in 2011-12.

G. Refer to E.

H. Refer to F.

- I. The amount each work unit spends on hospitality and entertainment is at the discretion of the work unit and will depend on their particular business needs.

Question No. 68

Program: DFAT

Topic: Meeting Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***

Answer

As financial information is not collected for meeting costs, to provide the details as requested would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

Question No. 69

Program: DFAT

Topic: Program Launch Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total program launch spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What program launch spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what program launch spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- E. *What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- F. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total program launch spend for 2011-12. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***

Answer

Not applicable. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not have program launches.

Question No. 70

Program: DFAT

Topic: Board appointments

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.***
- B. *What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?***
- C. *Please detail any board appointments this financial year to date.***

Answer

- A. All boards, including board titles, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members are listed below.
- B. The gender ratio for each board follows.
The gender ratio for boards across the department is 40.13 per cent female (not including ex officio members).
- C. Appointments to each board for the financial year to date (FYTD) are listed below.

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Australia Awards

A. Title: Australia Awards

Terms of appointment: Members are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 2 years (Chair) and part-time basis for 2 years (members), with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Professor Geoff Gallop AC	Chair	13/05/2011	12/05/2013
The Hon Bruce Baird AM	Member	13/05/2011	12/05/2013
Ms Simone Bartley	Member	13/05/2011	12/05/2013
Ms Jillian Broadbent AO	Member	13/05/2011	12/05/2013
Professor Peter Coaldrake AO	Member	13/05/2011	12/05/2013
CEO ACIAR	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
Director General AusAID	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
Secretary DFAT	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
Secretary DIISRTE	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 40 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. No new board members; one ex officio appointment on 19/09/2012 (Dr Nick Austin, CEO ACIAR – ongoing).

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Australia-China Council

A. Title: Australia-China Council

Terms of appointment: The Chair is appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who also appoints the Board members.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair) and 3 years (members), with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
The Hon. Warwick Smith AM	Chair	09/09/2011	08/09/2016
Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown	Deputy Chair	01/11/2010	31/10/2013
Professor Stephanie Fahey	Member	01/01/2013	31/12/2015
Mr David Olsson	Member	01/01/2013	31/12/2015
Ms Suhanya Raffel	Member	01/11/2010	31/10/2013
Professor Susan Street	Member	01/11/2010	31/10/2013
Professor Fiona Wood FRACS AM	Member	01/02/2011	31/01/2014
Dr Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary, DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 57.14 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. Two appointments (Professor Stephanie Fahey and Mr David Olsson).

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Australia-India Council

A. Title: Australia-India Council

Terms of appointment: All members (other than the Chair and the ex officio member) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Chair is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Up to 5 years (part-time) with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr John McCarthy AO	Chair	14/02/2013	13/02/2014
Ms Suzanne Davies	Member	01/08/2010	31/07/2013
Professor Brien Holden OAM	Member	07/09/2012	06/09/2013
Ms Payal Mahindroo	Member	01/08/2012	31/07/2015
Professor Gillian Whitlock	Member	07/09/2012	06/09/2015
Ms Jennifer Rawson (DFAT Division Head responsible for India)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 60 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. One board appointment (Ms Payal Mahindroo); three re-appointments (John McCarthy AO, Professor Brien Holden OAM and Professor Gillian Whitlock). Ms Jennifer Rawson (ex officio) replaced Mr Paul Robilliard as FAS South and West Asia and Middle East Division on 5 November 2012.

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Australia-Indonesia Institute

A. Title: Australia-Indonesia Institute

Terms of appointment: The Chair is appointed by the Governor-General on the nomination of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. A member of the Institute (other than the Chair and the ex officio member) is appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair) and 3 years (members), with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Professor Tim Lindsey	Chair	09/02/2011	08/02/2013
Dr James Bradfield Moody	Member	10/02/2011	09/02/2014
Professor Julia Day Howell	Member	10/02/2011	09/02/2014
Mr Andrew Donovan	Member	26/06/2012	25/06/2015
Professor David Hill	Member	10/02/2011	09/02/2014
Professor Clare Martin	Member	05/10/2011	04/10/2014
Professor Bruce Robinson	Member	26/06/2012	25/06/2015
Mr Greg Sheridan	Member	26/06/2012	25/06/2015
Ms Rufiath Yousuff	Member	10/02/2011	09/02/2014
Ms Gillian Bird (Deputy Secretary, DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 33.33 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. No new board members. Appointment process for Chair underway.

Australia International Cultural Council

A. Title: Australia International Cultural Council (AICC)

The *Australia in the Asian Century White Paper* identified a need to revamp the AICC. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for the Arts are considering implementing actions, including changes to the composition of the Council. The terms of previous board members had expired by March 2011.

B. To be determined when new members are appointed.

C. As of 1 March 2013, no new board members have been appointed.

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Australia-Japan Foundation

A. Title: Australia-Japan Foundation

Terms of appointment: The Chair is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Members of the Board (other than the Chair and the ex officio member) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair) and for 3 years (members) with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr Murray McLean AO	Chair	01/01/2012	31/12/2016
Dr Chiaki Ajioka	Member	01/10/2012	30/09/2015
Ms Melanie Brock	Member	01/03/2010	28/02/2013
Professor Kate Darian-Smith	Member	01/03/2010	28/02/2013
Mr Greg Earl	Member	01/03/2010	28/02/2013
Mr Tim Lester	Member	01/02/2010	31/01/2015
Mr Peter Yates AM	Member	01/02/2010	31/07/2014
Dr Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary, DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 42.86 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. One board appointment (Dr Chiaki Ajioka).

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Australia-Korea Foundation

A. Title: Australia-Korea Foundation

Terms of appointment: The Chair is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Members of the Board (other than the Chair and the ex officio member) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair) and 3 years (members) with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr David Palmer	Chair	17/07/2008	16/07/2013
Mr James Casey	Member	11/07/2011	10/07/2014
Dr Bronwen Dalton	Member	15/09/2009	14/09/2014
Mr Carrillo Gantner AO	Member	29/04/2011	28/04/2014
Professor Michael Manton FTSE	Member	2/02/2012	1/02/2015
Ms Jacquie Riddell	Member	11/10/2012	14/09/2015
Dr Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 33.33 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. One board appointment (Ms Jacquie Riddell), one re-appointment (Dr Bronwen Dalton).

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Australia-Malaysia Institute

A. Title: Australia-Malaysia Institute

Terms of appointment: Members (other than the ex officio member) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years (Chair) and 3 years (members), with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Professor Lance Twomey AO	Chair	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Mr Christian Bennett	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Ms Geraldine Doogue AO	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Ms Rechelle Hawkes OAM	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Dr Gaik Cheng Khoo	Member	04/05/2012	03/05/2015
Ms Kathe Kirby	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Mr Kee Wong	Member	04/05/2012	03/05/2015
Mr Talal Yassine OAM	Member	04/03/2013	03/03/2016
Ms Gillian Bird (Deputy Secretary, DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 50 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. One board appointment (Mr Talal Yassine OAM).

Australian National Commission for UNESCO

A. Title: Australian National Commission for UNESCO

Terms of appointment: The Chair and community (specialist and youth) members are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. These members must be Australian citizens. The Parliamentary Observers are nominated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs until ceasing to be members of the Senate or House of Representatives or dissolution of the House of Representatives, whichever is sooner. The Minister for Foreign Affairs consults the Leader of the Opposition in appointing the Parliamentary Observer representing the Opposition.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for up to 4 years; with possibility of re-appointment.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Ms Anthea Tinney	Chair	16/06/2009	15/06/2013
Mr Martin Hadlow	Deputy Chair and Specialist Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2016
Dr James Bradfield Moody	Specialist Member	16/06/2009	15/06/2013
Professor Denise Bradley AO	Specialist Member	16/06/2009	15/06/2013
Ms Chrissy Grant	Specialist Member	16/06/2009	15/06/2013
Professor Abdullah Saeed AM	Specialist Member	16/06/2009	15/06/2013
Mr Benson Saulo	Youth Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2016
Senator Marise Payne	Parliamentary Observer	Ongoing	N/A
Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP	Parliamentary Observer	Ongoing	N/A
AusAID Agency Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DBCDE Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DEEWR Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DFAT Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DIAC Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DIISRTE Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DRALGAS Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DSEWPaC Departmental Representative	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 42.86 per cent female (not including ex officio or Parliamentary Observers).

C. No new board members.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research – Commission for International Agricultural Research

A. Title: ACIAR Commission for International Agricultural Research

Terms of appointment: The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Ms Joanna Hewitt AO	Chair	07/04/2011	06/04/2014
Professor Kym Anderson	Commissioner	07/04/2011	06/04/2014
Dr Nick Austin	Commissioner	31/07/2012	30/07/2014
Mr Peter Baxter (Director General AusAID)	Commissioner	06/05/2010	05/05/2013
Mr David Crombie	Commissioner	07/04/2011	06/04/2014
Dr Joanne Daly	Commissioner	29/10/2012	28/10/2015
Dr Conall O'Connell	Commissioner	07/04/2011	06/04/2014

B. Gender ratio: 28.57 per cent female.

C. Two re-appointments (Dr Nick Austin and Dr Joanne Daly).

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research – Policy Advisory Council

A. Title: ACIAR Policy Advisory Council

Terms of Appointment: Membership of the Council is limited to 13, comprising a President, the Director General of AusAID's nominee and not fewer than nine and no more than eleven other members appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Minister is required, under legislation, to ensure that a substantial number of the members of the Council are residents of countries other than Australia, and to have regard for the knowledge of appointees concerning the agricultural problems of developing countries or their experience in organising or conducting agricultural research.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Dr Beth Woods OAM	President	21/03/2011	20/03/2014
Dr Subbanna Ayyappan	Member	19/07/2010	18/07/2013
Mr Brown Bai	Member	22/08/2011	21/08/2014
Dr Monthathip Chanphengxay	Member	22/08/2011	21/08/2014
Dr Patricio Faylon	Member	22/08/2011	21/08/2014
Dr Haryono	Member	04/09/2012	03/09/2015
The Hon. Professor Ruth Oniang'o SS DSM	Member	07/07/2010	06/07/2013
Dr Jimmie Rodgers	Member	04/09/2012	03/09/2015
Dr Muhammad Tusneem	Member	22/08/2011	21/08/2014
Dr Nguyen Van Bo	Member	19/07/2010	18/07/2013
Mr Ian Kershaw (nominee of the Director General AusAID)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 30 per cent female.

C. Two board appointments (Dr Haryono and Dr Jimmie Rodgers).

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Australia Thailand Institute

A. Title: Australia Thailand Institute

Terms of appointment: Members (other than the ex officio member) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years (Chair) and 3 years (members), with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr Mike Courtnall	Chair	09/04/2012	08/04/2013
Dr Kaye Eldridge	Member	25/05/2012	03/05/2015
Mr John Hancock	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Mr Michael Laverty	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Mr Jim Middleton	Member	09/04/2012	08/04/2015
Ms Dusadee Coulson	Member	04/05/2012	03/05/2015
Ms Annette Ellis	Member	04/05/2012	03/05/2015
Ms Margaret West AM	Member	15/01/2013	14/01/2016
Ms Gillian Bird (Deputy Secretary, DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 50 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. One board appointment (Ms Margaret West AM).

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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Council for Australian-Arab Relations

A. Title: Council for Australian-Arab Relations

Terms of appointment: The Chair of the Council and members of the board (other than ex officio members) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs with the agreement of the Minister for Trade. Chair and Members may be re-appointed for a term.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr Ahmed Fahour	Chair	31/01/2011	30/01/2014
Dr Glen Simpson	Deputy Chair	01/01/2011	31/12/2013
Ms Aziza Abdel-Halim AM	Member	16/12/2012	15/12/2015
Dr Anne Aly	Member	16/12/2012	15/12/2015
The Hon Steve Bracks AC	Member	30/06/2011	29/06/2014
Mr Roland Jabbour Esq. J.P.	Member	16/12/2012	15/12/2015
Mr Talal Yassine OAM	Member	16/12/2012	15/12/2015
Mr David Landers (Austrade delegate of the CEO)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
Ms Jennifer Rawson (delegate of DFAT Secretary)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 28.57 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. Three board appointments (Mr Roland Jabbour Esq JP, Mr Talal Yassine OAM, Ms Aziza Abdel-Halim AM); one re-appointment (Dr Anne Aly); one ex officio appointment (Ms Jennifer Rawson replaced Mr Paul Robilliard as FAS South and West Asia and Middle East Division on 5 November 2012).

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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Council on Australia Latin American Relations

A. Title: Council on Australia Latin American Relations

Terms of appointment: The Chair of the Council and members of the board (other than ex officio members) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness. Chair and members may be re-appointed for a term.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr David Luboff	Chair	01/07/2010	30/06/2013
Mr Craig Foster	Member	01/07/2010	30/06/2013
Mr Chris Gale	Member	10/08/2012	30/06/2015
Professor Margaret Gardner AOMs	Member	05/03/2007	30/06/2013
Mr Rob Grant	Member	01/07/2010	30/06/2013
Mr Greg Martin	Member	01/07/2010	30/06/2013
Mr Tim McLennan	Member	10/08/2012	30/06/2015
Ms Cristina Talacko	Member	06/09/2007	30/06/2013
Mr Demus King (General Manger, International DRET)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
Mr David Landers (General Manager, Growth and Emerging Markets, Austrade)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
Ms Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary, DFAT)	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A
DIISRTE member	Ex officio	Ongoing	N/A

B. Gender ratio: 25 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. Two board appointments (Mr Chris Gale and Mr Tim McLennan).

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Editorial Advisory Board

A. Title: Editorial Advisory Board

Terms of appointment: Members are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 4 years (Chair) and 4 years (members), with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr Kim Jones AM	Chair	02/05/2012	30/06/2015
Professor Ann Capling	Member	02/05/2012	30/06/2015
Professor Peter Edwards AM	Member	02/05/2012	30/06/2015
Mr Ian Hancock	Member	02/05/2012	30/06/2015
Professor Marilyn Lake	Member	02/05/2012	30/06/2015
Professor David Lowe	Member	02/05/2012	30/06/2015
Dr Leanne Piggott	Member	02/05/2012	30/06/2015

B. Gender ratio: 42.86 per cent female.

C. No new board members.

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Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

A. Title: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

Terms of appointment: All appointments are made in accordance with the EFIC Act 1991.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years, possible re-appointment for a second term or third term if the member has been appointed at any time as Chair.

Members:

<i>(title, name, surname)</i>	<i>(position on board)</i>	<i>(date of appointment)</i>	<i>(end date of appointment)</i>
Mr Angus Armour	Managing Director & CEO	31/10/2003	By Board decision
Mr Andrew Mohl	Chair	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
Ms Sally Pitkin	Deputy Chair	01/08/2010	31/07/2013
Mr Bruce Brook	Member	01/03/2010	28/02/2013
Mr David Evans	Member	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
Mr Nicholas Minogue	Member	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
Ms Jennifer Seabrook	Member	05/04/2011	04/04/2014
Ms Deena Shiff	Member	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
Mr Peter Varghese AO (DFAT Secretary)	Ex officio	03/12/2012	Ongoing

B. Gender ratio: 37.5 per cent female (not including ex officio).

C. No new board members; one ex officio appointment (Mr Peter Varghese – new Government Member)

Question No. 71

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question:

- A. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?***
- B. What is the total cost to the department /agency to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?***
- C. How many requests did the department/agency receive for this financial year to date? How many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?***

Answer

- A. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), established under the Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010, provides advice to all agencies governed by the Freedom of Information Act 1982 with respect to responding to FOI requests. This advice is available at http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines. From time to time, this advice is updated. In recent months, there have been some updates to these guidelines. The online version represents the most up-to-date version of the advice.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments on 28 July 2011. This is available at http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm. There has been no update to this advice since it was issued.
- B. DFAT compiles information on staff-hours and non-labour costs relating to FOI at the end of each financial year. DFAT provides this information to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OAIC) for publication in the usual reporting cycle. The OAIC then uses its own methodology to estimate the cost for each agency.

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This final cost information is published by the Office of the Information Commissioner on its website in the Freedom of Information Act 1982 Annual Report. For 2011-2012, DFAT provided its inputs to the OAIC, including estimated total staff-hours of 13710 and non-labour costs of \$9562. The OAIC methodology indicates an estimated total cost to DFAT of \$938,602.

Reporting partial year results may not provide an accurate comparison to previous whole year data. Moreover, answering this question would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources to undertake the task part way through the reporting cycle. The process must be undertaken at the end of the reporting period. The information will be provided by DFAT at the end of the financial year and will be published by the Office of the Information Commissioner on its website.

- C. For the half year from July to December 2012, the Department received 107 FOI requests, a rate of 214 requests/year.

A range of statutory extensions of time are permitted under the FOI Act. Response times over 30 days do not necessarily indicate that the response is overdue, once statutory extensions are allowed for. Nevertheless, in some cases the Department's response has occurred after the processing time has elapsed. Where it occurs, the reason for the delay beyond the processing times allowed under the FOI Act is that the request is large and/or complex, requiring extensive analysis and consultation.

In the financial year of 2011-12 DFAT closed 204 FOI requests. In the half year from July to December 2012, the Department closed 111 requests.

Requests may be closed through a variety of means, including finalisation of the request, withdrawal of the request – some requests were withdrawn in the context of the applicant submitting a re-scoped request, and agreement to receive a document outside the FOI Act.

Question No. 72

Program: DFAT

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location.***
- B. *How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodation and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.***
- C. *What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date***

Answer

- A.** Senator Carr has attended one Community Cabinet meeting in the 2012-13 financial year to date, in Ipswich, Queensland, on 10 July 2012. Dr Emerson has attended one Community Cabinet meeting in the 2012-13 financial year to date, in Kippa-Ring, Queensland, on 14 November 2012.
- B.** Departmental officers have attended each of the Community Cabinet meetings in the 2012-13 financial year to date. Costs were absorbed in the department's operating budget.
- The Director of the Queensland State Office accompanied Senator Carr to the 10 July 2012 Community Cabinet meeting in Ipswich, Queensland.
 - The Director of the Western Australia State Office attended the 5 September 2012 Community Cabinet meeting in Orelia, Western Australia.

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- The Acting Director of the Tasmania State Office attended the 3 October 2012 Community Cabinet meeting in Launceston, Tasmania.
 - The Director of the Queensland State Office accompanied Dr Emerson to the 14 November 2012 Community Cabinet meeting in Kippa-Ring, Queensland.
- C. The cost to the department of departmental officers attending Community Cabinet meetings in the 2012-13 financial year to date is negligible and has been absorbed as part of the department's operating costs. Information on the domestic travel costs of Ministers and Ministerial Staff is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Question No. 73

Program: DFAT

Topic: Reviews

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- A. How many Reviews are being undertaken?*
- B. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?*
- C. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?*
- D. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?*
- E. Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?*
- F. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?*
- G. What reviews are planned?*
- H. When will each of these reviews be concluded?*

Answer

- A. None.
- B. None.
- C. Not applicable.
- D. Not applicable.
- E. Not applicable.
- F. Not applicable.
- G. None.
- H. Not applicable.

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Question No. 74

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie, open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.***
- B. *How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.***

Answer

- A. Details of all consultancy contracts valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2012-13 to date are available on AusTender – the Commonwealth’s procurement reporting system. When contracts are awarded, the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender. To provide details of consultancy contracts awarded valued at less than \$10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- B. All details of planned consultancies, including subject matter, estimated date of approach to market, and proposed method of procurement are published in DFAT’s Annual Procurement Plan on the AusTender website. The potential cost of future procurements, and the name of any successful bidder would not be known until the approach to market had been completed. These details are published on AusTender soon after any contract is awarded.

Question No. 75

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media Monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?

- A. Which agency or agencies provided these services?*
- B. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?*
- C. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?*

Answer

- A. Media Monitors (Sentia Media)
- B. \$123,000.00
- C. \$33,930.12 FYTD

Question

What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?

- A. Which agency or agencies provided these services?*
- B. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?*
- C. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?*

Answer

- A. Media Monitors (Sentia Media)
- B. \$240,540.00
- C. \$157,347.26 (FY 2012-13 to-date 28 February 2013)

Question No. 76

Program: DFAT

Topic: Social Media

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue.***
- B. *Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?***
- C. *If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks).***
- D. *Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff usage?***
- E. *If no, will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?***
- F. *Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)***

Answer

- A.** The Department's Conduct and Ethics Manual was updated on 26 June 2012 to reflect guidance from the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) for all APS employees making public comments in a private capacity and using internet social networking tools, blogs and chat rooms. The new guidance aims to help employees better understand the issues they need to take into account when considering making public comment, including online. The Conduct and Ethics Manual is available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website.
- B & C.**
Yes. We cannot verify actual usage across-the-board.
- D.** No
- E.** Not Applicable
- F.** No. The department does not consider that the use of social media is impacting employee productivity.

Question No. 77

Program: DFAT

Topic: Internet

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office?

Answer

DFAT has experienced a major and sustained internet outage in the past six months. The outage occurred on Tuesday 5 March 2013 which affected all users and lasted six hours. In this instance the problem lay within departmental infrastructure which affected a large section of the user population including the Minister's Office staff.

In the period from 06 March until 14 March 2013 there was an impact on performance due to internet slowness. This was a result of a number of factors. Further analysis indicates that the majority of jobs reported during this period of 'slowness' related to when officers were accessing particular internet resources. The most significant factor in the slow access times during these periods has been bandwidth exhaustion. It is probable that the Ministers' offices were also affected on these occasions.

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Question No.78

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff amenities

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list.

Answer

Staff have access to a gymnasium, cafeteria and child care centre located in the RG Casey Building, the Department's Head Office in Canberra. At each State and Territory office the Department provides a working environment which meets Workplace Health and Safety requirements, as it does at posts across the global network.

Question No.79

Program: DFAT

Topic: Coffee machines

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.***
- B. *Why were coffee machines purchased?***
- C. *Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?***
- D. *Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?***
- E. *Who has access?***
- F. *Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?***
- G. *What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?***
- H. *Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.***
- I. *Why are coffee machines rented?***
- J. *Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?***
- K. *Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?***
- L. *Who has access?***
- M. *Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?***
- N. *What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?***

Answer

It is not a policy of the Department to purchase or rent coffee machines for staff usage.

Question No. 80

Program: DFAT

Topic: Contractors

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- A. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- B. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- C. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- D. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- E. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- F. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- G. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- H. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).***
- I. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.***

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J. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

Answer

A. No.

B. No.

C. No.

D. No.

E. No.

There is an unrelated expenditure with a company named Cutting Edge in Harare for a lawnmower and associated gardening equipment maintenance.

F. No.

G. No.

H. No.

I. No.

J. Details of contracts valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2012-13 to date are available on AusTender – the Commonwealth’s procurement reporting system. When contracts are awarded, the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender. To provide details of consultancies and contracts awarded valued at less than \$10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

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Question No. 81

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Could the department/agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.**
- B. Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.**
- C. Provide a list of grants that your department/agency administers that had uncommitted grants funding reduced as per the statement by the Finance Minister on 22 October 2012 (see http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_2102012.html). How much was funding reduced for grant?**

Answer

- A. A list of the department's grants is publicly available on the department's website which includes details of grant recipients, amount, purpose and funding location.
- B. As at 8 March 2013, five grants, totalling \$226,000, were not reported on the department's website within the required 7 day timeframe as listed below.

Recipient	Amount	Purpose	Location
Association Cinema des Antipodes	\$6,000	To support an Australian film festival in St Tropez	St Tropez
The Australian National University	\$38,500	Funding to support Aus-CSCAP July 2012 to June 2013	Canberra
Australia Education Foundation	\$74,800	Thai BRIDGE Program	Thailand & Australia
Snuff Puppets	\$44,000	Tour to Chile and Peru showcasing a selection of repertoire and community workshops. Will form part of Australia-Peru 50th anniversary of relations celebrations.	Footscray

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Strange Fruit	\$62,700	Large scale performances and collaboration with Latin American artists, in Chile and Peru. Part of program celebrating 50th anniversary of relations between Australia and Peru.	Collingwood
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- C. No grants administered by the department had uncommitted grant funding reduced as per the statement by the Finance Minister on 22 October 2012.

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Question No. 82

Program: DFAT

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members?***
- B. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?***
- C. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?***

Answer

- A. None.
- B. Not applicable.
- C. Not applicable.

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Question No. 83

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie, within 30 days)?**
- B. If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)**
- C. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?**
- D. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?**

Answer

- A. Government policy in terms of timeliness for payment of accounts is focussed on small business. Agencies are only required to monitor and report performance on payments to small business. Consequently DFAT systems are not configured to collect information on the timeframe for payment of all accounts to a particular supplier category
- B. The 2012-13 statistics relating to payments to small business will be collated following the end of the financial year and will be provided to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) in response to their yearly survey. To collate this data at this stage of the year will entail significant diversion of resources and in these circumstances I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- C. Departmental practices accord with the requirements outlined in Finance Circular 2012/02 Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business. The department is not aware of any late payment interest penalty paid in the current financial year.
- D. Refer C

Question No. 84

Program: DFAT

Topic: Stationery Requirements

Question on Notice

Page: 6

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?***
- B. *What are the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?***

Answer

- A. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on stationery requirements (including paper) supplied by its contracted stationery supplier for portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries was \$10,253.
- B. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on stationery requirements (including paper) supplied by its contracted stationery supplier for departmental use was \$0.389 million. Spending on stationery from vendors other than the Department's contracted stationery supplier, including local purchases by overseas posts, has not been included in this figure. It would entail a significant diversion of resources to collate this information and, in the circumstances; I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question No. 85

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- B. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.***
- C. What is the cost for this financial year to date?***
- D. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- E. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.***
- F. What is the cost for this financial year to date?***
- G. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- H. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.***
- I. What is the cost for this financial year to date?***

Answer

A.

- Foxtel
- Parliamentary TV channels.

B. The Foxtel subscription provides access to the following channels to enable Central Office for monitoring of world events and news updates:

- BBC World
- CNBC
- CNN
- Sky News Australia
- Sky News for Business
- Weather Channel

Parliamentary channel subscriptions are used to monitor parliamentary proceedings

- APH – Senate
- APH - House of Representatives
- APH - Main Committee Room

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C.

- Foxtel subscriptions have cost \$19,068.31 between 01.07.2012 to 28.02.2013
- between 01.07.2012 to 28.02.2013
- Parliamentary TV subscriptions have cost \$7,316.18 for 2012-13, paid in March 2013.

D.-I.

Newspaper, magazine and television subscriptions are decentralised and managed and budgeted by individual work units in Canberra, across 95 posts overseas and by seven state and territory offices, according to their varying requirements.

Aggregating subscriptions and their costs across all DFAT offices, both overseas and in Australia would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

Question No. 86

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).**
- B. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- C. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- D. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- E. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed?**
- F. How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.**
- G. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.**
- H. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.**
- I. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?**

Answer

- A. Departmental officers are entitled to a travel allowance which covers food, beverages and incidentals. It is not possible to itemise separately the amounts spent on food, beverages, alcohol and incidentals for each staff member for each visit.**

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In some cases a staff member may have a 'nil' response for travel costs (eg if the staff member accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary on a Special Purpose Aircraft flight), for accommodation costs (eg if the staff member stayed at the Official Residence or privately) or for travel allowance (eg if the staff member attended functions where a meal was provided, then that staff member would not be paid travel allowance for that meal).

The class of travel to which departmental officers are entitled is based on whether the staff member is SES or non-SES. All staff travel business class for international flights over two hours in duration. In the case of a single-sector trip (not including check-in time) of less than two hours in duration the class of travel is economy class for non-SES staff. (If business class is not available, SES staff travel first class and non-SES staff travel the next class below business class.) Australian domestic travel that is part of an international journey will be of the same standard as the international component, wherever possible.

Details for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 October 2012 were included in the response to Question on Notice 113 in the October Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012–2013. Details for the period 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2013 are as follows. The costs provided in this response are as at 5 March 2013. Some costs may still not have been finalised.

1. Senator Carr travelled to Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore from 3 to 10 November 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Indonesia. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Executive Officer, Indonesia Political and Strategic Section

(i)	2,666.76	(ii)	1,102.94	(iii)	388.41	(iv)	nil
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2. Senator Carr travelled to Papua New Guinea from 3 to 6 December 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch

(i)	2,775.70	(ii)	425.21	(iii)	nil	(iv)	nil
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3. Senator Carr travelled to Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka from 13 to 18 December 2012.

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Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Timor-Leste and one to Sri Lanka. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for these staff members is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Indonesia and Timor-Leste Branch

(i)	3,963.55	(ii)	916.83	(iii)	484.71	(iv)	nil
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Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues

(i)	5,795.17	(ii)	2,106.27	(iii)	1,116.68	(iv)	nil
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4. Senator Carr travelled to India, Switzerland, Germany and the UK from 19 January to 3 February 2013.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to India and one to Germany and the UK. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for these staff members is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

(i)	6,239.82	(ii)	1,092.25	(iii)	145.14	(iv)	nil
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First Assistant Secretary, Europe Division

(i)	10,744.74	(ii)	2,671.49	(iii)	1,319.49	(iv)	nil
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5. Senator Carr travelled to Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu from 10 to 13 February 2013.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

A/g First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Division

(i)	nil	(ii)	nil	(iii)	324.28	(iv)	nil
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6. Senator Carr travelled to Laos and Thailand from 17 to 22 February 2013.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia Bilateral Branch

(i)	8,186.46	(ii)	876.98	(iii)	nil	(iv)	nil
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7. Dr Emerson travelled to Cambodia from 18 to 21 November 2012.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff members. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for these staff members is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, Office of Trade Negotiations

(i)	4,829.63	(ii)	947.90	(iii)	217.92	(iv)	45.00 Visa
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Assistant Secretary, North Asia Investment and Services Branch

(i)	5,706.19	(ii)	nil	(iii)	124.25	(iv)	15.00 Visa
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8. Dr Emerson travelled to Papua New Guinea from 5 to 6 December 2012.

Dr Emerson was not accompanied by any Canberra-based DFAT staff.

9. Dr Emerson travelled to Switzerland and India from 22 to 30 January 2013.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Switzerland and one to India. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for these staff members is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, Office of Trade Negotiations

(i)	15,939.64	(ii)	2,183.70	(iii)	966.20	(iv)	Nil
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Assistant Secretary, South and Central Asia Branch

(i)	6,482.29	(ii)	1,180.33	(iii)	422.08	(iv)	45.00 Visa
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10. Mr Marles travelled to India from 31 October to 3 November 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, South and Central Asia Branch

(i)	6,110.31	(ii)	172.55	(iii)	204.48	(iv)	49.50 Visa
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11. Mr Marles travelled to Papua New Guinea from 5 to 7 November 2012.

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Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Director, Papua New Guinea and Torres Strait Section, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch

(i) 5,676.19 (ii) 1,296.41 (iii) 409.52 (iv) nil

12. Mr Marles travelled to Papua New Guinea from 5 to 6 December 2012.

Mr Marles was not accompanied by any Canberra-based DFAT staff.

13. Mr Marles travelled to the Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands from 10 to 14 December 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

(i) Nil (ii) 735.05 (iii) 226.46 (iv) 96.84 Taxis

14. Mr Marles travelled to New Zealand from 17 to 18 December 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Director, Papua New Guinea and Torres Strait Section, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch

(i) 2,530.04 (ii) 624.64 (iii) 252.78 (iv) nil

15. Mr Marles travelled to the United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan from 14 to 28 January 2013.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Ethiopia. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii), accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Director, UN Security Council Task Force, International Organisations and Legal Division

(i) 9,741.00 (ii) 2481.34 (iii) 20 (iv) nil

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- B. For this financial year (to 31 January 2013) the department has spent \$13.65 million from its Operating Budget, on travel. This figure includes, airfares, accommodation, meals and incidentals and other expenses:

F/Y	2012-2013 FYTD
Airfares	\$11.17m
Accommodation	\$1.13m
Travel Allow.	\$1.08m
Other	\$0.27m
Total Expenditure	\$13.65m

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow all travel to be separately captured to provide a breakdown by airfare type and the reason for travel. To provide such details in this format would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

- C – D. The department’s global responsibilities creates a high demand for travel throughout the year, often at short notice. Travel for the remainder of the year is expected to be at around the same rate as year to date. The department does not forecast individual future travel plans on a central system. To provide details of individual travel plans and reasons for travel would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- E. Yes.
- F. Compliance is monitored through the department’s Travel Management Company, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT).
- G. SES staff, as part of their conditions of service have a provision for one airline/club membership to be purchased at official expense. Wherever possible, SES staff are encouraged to pay for this membership with official frequent flyer points. Non SES staff are not eligible for membership at official expense of any airline’s Club Lounge.

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow airline/club memberships to be separately captured to provide a breakdown. To provide details in this format would entail significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

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- H. Support staff and administrative staff in DFAT do not travel specifically to accompany or support SES officers. However, there may be a need to deploy support or administrative staff for other reasons not associated with providing SES support.
- I. The department does not offset emissions for employees work related travel.

Question No. 87

Program: DFAT

Topic: Legal Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A. *What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***
- B. *What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***
- C. *What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***
- D. *What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***

Answer

- A.** The total expenditure by the department (including both bills paid and payable) on external legal services for this financial year to 28 February 2013 was \$2,055,233.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total legal services expenditure according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.

- B.** The total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for this financial year to 28 February was \$1,313,468 broken down as follows: (i) \$609,495 for commercial advice; (ii) \$675,752 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$28,221 for general advice.

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- C. The total expenditure by the department on legal services from private firms in Australia for the current financial year to 28 February 2013 was \$374,814 broken down as follows: (i) \$312,572 for commercial advice; (ii) \$6,366 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$55,876 for general advice.
- D. The figures provided above in relation to total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor and private firms do not include the external legal services expenditure by posts overseas. This additional amount was \$366,951 for the current financial year to 28 February 2013.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total external legal services expenditure by posts overseas according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.

Question No: 88

Program: DFAT

Topic: Education Expenses

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. What are the department/agency's guidelines on study?**
- B. For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.**

Answer

- A. The department is committed to providing employees with the opportunity to pursue part-time study under the department's 'Studybank' Program, provided it is relevant to the department's corporate objectives and human resources requirements. Before approving study leave, the following factors are taken into consideration:
1. the financial resources and operational needs of the department;
 2. the work performance of the employee;
 3. the career development needs of the employee; and
 4. the number of working hours required.

Courses must be directly relevant to the department's core business. Approval is normally given on a semester-by-semester basis.

Courses must lead to or form part of a Higher Education Sector Accreditation provided by a university or other recognised higher education institution under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF comprises the following qualifications under the Higher Education Sector Accreditation: Diploma, Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters Degree and Doctoral Degree.

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- B. For the financial year to date, 63 DFAT employees are currently enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate studies under the Department's "Studybank" program in the following disciplines:

Law
HR Management
Strategic Affairs
Science
Business
Accounting
Management
International Studies
Public Policy

The total cost for the financial year to date has been \$53,306.00. The average cost per participant for the financial year to date is \$846.00.

A total of 2088 hours of study leave has been granted for the financial year to date. The classification of employees receiving study leave ranges from APS3 to Executive Level 2 employees.

Approved study was undertaken to allow officers to develop their professional skills in academic disciplines that are relevant to the department's objectives.

Question No. 89

Program: DFAT

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

In relation to executive coaching and/or leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

- A. Total spending on these services;*
- B. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification;*
- C. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) and;*
- D. The names of all service providers engaged*

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (D), please provide:

- A. The name and nature of the service purchased;*
- B. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based;*
- C. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification;*
- D. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);*
- E. The total amount spent on the service;*
- F. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package).*

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- A. The location used;*
- B. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);*
- C. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and*
- D. Any costs to the department of agencies incurred to use the location.*

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Answer

For this financial year to date, \$389,757 has been spent on leadership training services and executive coaching. A total of 112 executive employees (EL1, EL2 and SES) engaged in leadership training. Study leave was not granted to these employees for their training.

Providers engaged for leadership development services were Yellow Edge; the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School; Melbourne Business School; the Australian Government School of Management; and the Australian New Zealand School of Government.

Executive coaching services were provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership programs were group based. Executive coaching and leadership training totalled 2802 hours for all executive employees.

Training locations that were used externally were: the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston; Melbourne Business School; and Australian Graduate School of Management in Sydney and the Australian New Zealand School of Government in Canberra. A total of 33 executive employees were trained at external locations. Training provided at external locations totalled 1536 hours. The cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of leadership training for DFAT executives was \$5,700.

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No: 90

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

- A. Total spending on these services;*
- B. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification;*
- C. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and*
- D. The names of all service providers engaged.*

Answer

A. For this financial year to **14 February 2013**, \$15,600 has been spent on media and training.

B and C.

Seven SES Band 1, five Executive Level 2 and two Executive Level 1 officers have utilised these services. Study leave was not granted to these employees for their training

D. Laurie Wilson and Associates was engaged to deliver media training.

Question

For each service purchased from a provider listed under D. above, please provide:

- A. The name and nature of the service purchased;*
- B. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based;*

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- C. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);**
- D. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);**
- E. The total amount spent on the service; and**
- F. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package).**

Answer

- A. The service, titled 'SES Media Skills' is a day-long workshop.**
- B. The training is delivered one-on-one and group based, covering media theory and practical interview skills.
- C. Seven SES Band 1, five Executive Level 2 and two Executive Level 1 officers have utilised these services.
- D. Training provided totalled approximately 105 hours.
- E. The total amount spent on the service is \$15,600.
- F. The fees were charged as a complete package.

Question

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises please provide:

- A. The location used;**
- B. The number of employees who took part on each occasion;**
- C. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and**
- D. Any costs the department or agency incurred to use the location.**

Answer

- A. Training location that was used externally was the National Press Club (Canberra).
- B. A total of three executive employees were trained at external locations.
- C. Training provided at external locations totalled approximately 23 hours.
- D. There was nil cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of the media training.

**Additionally, we provided tailored media training for 18 officers who may be deployed as part of the department's Emergency Response Team in the event of a major overseas crisis. This training was conducted in-house, was for 108 hours and included one SES Band 1, three Executive Level 2, nine Executive Level 1 and five APS officers. The cost of this program has been included in the figures noted at (1) A and B above.

Question No. 91

Program: DFAT

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?**
- B. For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.**
- C. What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date.**

Answer

- A. For the current financial year to 5 March 2013, DFAT has been advised by the Family Assistance Office that 37 employees are eligible for payment under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme.
- B. For the current financial year to 5 March 2013, DFAT is providing 37 employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme. The number of employees by classification is:

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Nil	APS2
1	APS3
3	APS4
11	APS5
7	APS6
13	EL1
2	EL2
Nil	SES BAND 1
Nil	SES BAND 2
Nil	SES BAND 3

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C. The paid parental scheme offered by DFAT provides employees who are not entitled to paid maternity, adoption or foster parents' leave with paid parental leave:

- to attend the birth of their child, or their partner's child;
- to give birth and recover from a birth where the employee is not eligible for paid maternity leave; or
- to care for an adopted child, a foster child, or a child for whom the employee is a guardian, and for whom the employee has recently assumed care where the employee is not eligible for paid adoption leave.

Eligible employees are entitled to up to two continuous weeks of full pay parental leave or four weeks at half pay.

For the current financial year to 5 March 2013, 29 employees have accessed the scheme on either full pay or half pay.

Question No. 92

Program: DFAT

Topic: Training for Portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.***
- B. *For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.***
- C. *For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.***

Answer

- A. Nil.
- B. Nil.
- C. Nil.

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Question No. 93

Program: DFAT

Topic: Corporate Cars

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How many cars are owned by each department/agency?***
- B. *Where is the car/s located?***
- C. *What is the car/s used for?***
- D. *What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?***
- E. *How far did each car travel this financial year to date?***

Answer

- A. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade owns 452 cars, which includes fleet vehicles overseas.

The department notes that the other DFAT portfolio agencies have been asked the same question and will reply separately.

- B. The vehicles owned by DFAT are dispersed across our posts overseas.
- A. DFAT maintains vehicle fleets at its overseas posts to facilitate post operations and to meet the everyday official transport needs of the post. Vehicles are provided to facilitate effective discharge of the mission's operational requirements.
- B. Details and breakup of costs are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- C. Details of car mileage are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question No. 94

Program: DFAT

Topic: Taxi Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date?***
- B. *Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.***
- C. *What are the reasons for taxi costs?***

Answer

A-B:

Information on DFAT expenditure on taxis is not separately recorded. It would entail significant diversion of resources to collate this expenditure and to break it down into business groups. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified.

- C. Taxis are utilised by officers within Australia and overseas in undertaking official business and executing operational requirements.

Question No. 95

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hire Cars

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date?***
- B. Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.***
- C. What are the reasons for hire car costs?***

Answer

- A. For this financial year (to 31 January 2013) the department has spent \$181,996 from its Operating Budget, on car hire.
- B. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow for the breakdown of hire car costs for each business group. To provide details in this format would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- C. Car hire is undertaken by officers within Australia and overseas in undertaking official business and executing operational requirements.

Question No. 96

Program: DFAT

Topic: Credit Cards

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.

Please update details of the following:

- A. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?*
- B. How is corporate credit card use monitored?*
- C. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?*
- D. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered?*
- E. List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.*
- F. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?*

Answer

At 7 March 2013 418 officers had an Australian corporate credit card. Information on the number of officers issued with credit cards overseas is not maintained centrally. To provide information on the employment classification of corporate credit card holders would entail a significant diversion of resources. In these circumstances I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

- A. If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.
- B. Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements for Australian issued cards is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.
- C. The matter is referred to the department's Conduct and Ethics Unit for investigation. If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.
- D. In 2011-12 there was one instance of corporate credit card misuse.

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- E. An officer inadvertently used their DFAT credit card to purchase fuel for their private vehicle. The following day the officer advised the card manager and repaid the amount.
- F. Cardholders are required to sign an agreement that sets out the conditions of use of the credit card, including the need to safeguard the card and card number and to provide supporting documentation to substantiate transactions. Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.

Question No. 97

Program: DFAT

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs.***
- B. *For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date?***
- C. *Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.***
- D. *Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to whom it is provided.***

Answer

A.

As at 28 February 2013, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides Information and Communications Technology (ICT) support for portfolio-related activities in accordance with Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFD) guidelines for:

- The Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Asian Century Policy
- The Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs;

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- The Parliamentary Secretary for Trade; and
- Their offices.

Included in this support is the provision of mobile phones to each Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and their staff. The phones are a mix of Blackberry and iPhones, and in one instance a Nokia.

As at 14 February 2013, the cost of purchasing each device is:

Blackberry: \$516.36

iPhone: \$726.36

Nokia C2-01: \$84.54

Ongoing costs vary depending on individual use patterns. Disaggregating costs down to the individual office or individual would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

B.

2012-13: March 13 \$127,620

C.

Yes, DFAT provides ICT equipment to departmental staff and to staff in other agencies/departments under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ICT Services.

The baseline ICT service package provided to DFAT staff consists of a desktop computer and desk phone. This is a standard offering to all staff and is not determined by classification.

Printers and multi-function devices (print, copy, scan and fax) are generally shared resources.

The provision of additional equipment such as mobile phones, blackberries, USB storage and laptops is determined by business need, typically related to specific job functions such as blackberries for travelling executives.

DFAT provides ICT services to over 40 other government agencies and departments under MOU which includes arrangements for cost recovery for these services. Typically this includes desktop computing services.

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Device	Cost per device
Standard desktop (pc plus monitor)	\$1,235.96 (GST Exclusive)
Desktop phone	\$331 (GST Exclusive)
Standard laptop (Samsung NP900X3C-A06AU)	\$1595.30 (GST Exclusive)
Lightweight laptop	Same Above
iPad	\$843.00
iPhone	\$726.36
Printer multi-function device (Xerox DocuCentre-IV 4475)	\$8270.85 (GST Exclusive)
BlackBerry 9900	\$516.36
Nokia C2-01	\$84.54
USB 4G Modem	\$193.64

Note: All equipment is procured under the Desktop and Major Office Machines (MOM) whole of government panel arrangements.

DFAT's position is that disaggregating ICT costs down to the individual staff and classification level would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

(D)

Yes, DFAT provides ICT equipment to Senator Carr and his office, Minister Emerson and his office as well as the Department's 2 Parliamentary Secretaries and their staff. The ICT equipment and cost of the devices has been listed in answer (C).

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Question No. 98

Program: DFAT

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A** *What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?*
- B.** *What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?*

Answer

- A. The department is a party to the Whole of Government electricity contract for government agencies based in the ACT. The contract is with ERM Power Retail Pty Ltd and was signed on 20 May 2011 for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015. The department does not have electricity purchasing agreements for State, Territory and Passport Offices located outside of the ACT. Electricity arrangements are determined by the building owners at these locations.
- B. Domestic electricity costs for the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 amounted to \$1,734,319

Question No. 99

Program: DFAT

Topic: Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:

- A. How are briefings requests commissioned?*
- B. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.*
- C. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.*
- D. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.*
- E. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.*

Answer

No.

A to E not applicable.

Question

Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:

- A. How are briefings requests commissioned?*
- B. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.*
- C. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.*
- D. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.*
- E. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.*

Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer

No.

A to E not applicable.

Question No. 100

Program: DFAT

Topic: Shredders

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders this financial year?***
- B. If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.***

Answer

Details of the purchase of shredders are maintained on individual files cross DFAT's Australian and overseas network. To provide details would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources. Shredders are used by DFAT for shredding classified material.

Question No. 101

Program: DFAT

Topic: Protective Security Policy Framework

Written Question

Senator Eggleston

Question

Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

Answer

DFAT is confident that its level of security compliance meets or exceeds the requirements of the *Protective Security Policy Framework* (PSPF) and the *Information Security Manual* (ISM). The department's Security Manual, which it revised and reissued in February 2013, provides comprehensive and current information on all protective security policy and practices for DFAT, both within Australia and overseas, and meets mandatory PSPF requirements. The demands of the overseas security environment require a higher level of compliance and responsiveness by the department. In line with the PSPF, DFAT will provide its security compliance report to Portfolio Ministers in August 2013.

In managing security risks, DFAT has a security plan in place that is clearly articulated as part of the DFAT Security Manual. It also has a security risk assessment framework in place and a critical risk register. The Department's Risk Management Handbook, revised in September 2012, provides guidelines on assessing and managing risk.

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Question No. 102

Program: DFAT

Topic: Office locations

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by:

- A. Department/Agency**
- B. Location**
- C. Leased or owned**
- D. Size**
- E. Number of staff at each location and classification**
- F. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre**
- G. If owned, the value of the building**
- H. Depreciation of buildings that are owned**
- I. Type of functions and work undertaken.**

Answer

A. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Location B	Leased/ Owned C	Size Net lettable area D	Number of staff and classification E	Rent m ² per year (Excl GST) F	Function/ work undertaken I
Canberra RG Casey Building John McEwen Crescent Barton	Leased	45,382m ²	APS1-5: 468 APS6/EL1: 729 EL2: 212 SES: 105	\$412.00	Central Department functions
Canberra Arts House Blackall Street Barton	Leased	916m ²	APS1-5: 2 APS6/EL1: 5 EL2: 2	\$380.00	Communications
Melbourne Casselden Place 2 Lonsdale Street	Leased	2,044m ²	APS1-5: 76 APS6/EL1: 11 EL2: 1 SES: 1	\$450.07	Policy and Passports
Sydney Angel Place 123 Pitt Street	Leased	815m ²	APS1-5: 6 APS6/EL1: 1 SES: 1	\$573.72	Policy

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Sydney Gateway House 26 Lee Street	Leased	1,834m ²	APS1-5: 58 APS6/EL1: 7 EL2: 1	\$463.29	Passports
Newcastle 77-79 Hunter Street	Leased	217m ²	APS1-5: 7 APS6/EL1: 1	\$364.49	Passports
Darwin NT House 22 Mitchell Street	Leased	314m ²	APS1-5: 7 APS6/EL1: 1	\$490.00	Policy and Passports
Brisbane 150 Charlotte Street	Leased	1,496 m ²	APS1-5: 40 APS6/EL1: 9 EL2: 2	\$593.41	Policy and Passports
Adelaide 55 Currie Street	Leased	608m ²	APS1-5: 16 APS6/EL1: 2 EL2: 1	\$402.35	Policy and Passports
Hobart 111 Macquarie Street	Leased	335m ²	APS1-5: 6 APS6/EL1: 2 EL2: 1	\$361 07	Policy and Passports
Perth Level 17 Exchange Plaza, Sherwood Court	Leased	827m ²	APS1-5: 35 APS6/EL1: 4 EL2: 1	\$904.45	Policy and Passports
Thursday Island 4 Victoria Parade	Leased	68m ²	APS6/EL1: 1	\$508.76	Policy and Passports

Question No. 103

Program: DFAT

Topic: Communications Staff

Question on Notice / Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:

By Department or agency:

- A. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.*
- B. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location*
- C. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location*
- D. How many are graphic designers?*
- E. How many are media managers?*
- F. How many organise events?*
- G. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?*

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Answer

- A. The Department has four media liaison staff responsible for day-to-day media engagement (1 x EL2, 3 x APS6/EL1) plus a media liaison assistant (APS1-5). In addition it has three communications staff for the passports program (1 x EL2, 1 x APS6/EL1, 1 x APS1-5), two for the consular services program (2 x APS6/EL1) and one for trade policy outreach (EL2). Six staff (1 x EL2, 3 x APS6/EL1, 2 x APS1-5) handle the department's online communications (web presence, social media). The total number of Canberra-based staff engaged in these media and media-related roles is 17.

Departmental staff engage in a range of public communications functions across the department's overseas network, typically in conjunction with other responsibilities (such as Head of Mission, policy officer, consular officer). It is not possible to quantify the time allocated to such tasks and it is not included in the above details.

- B. None
- C. Passport Communications has two contractors additional to the three staff mentioned above.
- D. None of the mentioned public relations, communications or media staff are employed as graphic designers.
- E. The Media Liaison Section is the department's focal point for liaising with media organisations, including managing inquiries on portfolio related issues. This Section currently employs a director, three media liaison officers, and one media assistant.
- F. All public relations, communications and media staff are involved in organising events, ranging from program launches (such as the October 2012 launch of the new consular Smartraveller advertising campaign), to arrangements for visiting government leaders and media.
- G. No, the department does not have an independent media studio.

Question No. 104

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji

Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon

Question

I note the Minister's statement on ABC's Radio National that Fiji should look closely at the way Indonesia has restructured the relationship between its government and its military. This statement gives a clear signal to all and the Bainimarama regime of Australia's stand.

Yet judging by the Fijian Military's submission to the Ghai Draft Constitution, its rejection and burning of that Draft, the Fiji military is adamant in playing a constitutional role in shaping democracy post 2014 elections.

Is Australia willing to accept the regime's re-draft of the Ghai Draft with an entrenched military role in politics?

Answer

The release on 21 March of Fiji's draft constitution is a significant development, but Fiji's return to democracy will require much more.

It will be important that public consultation on the constitution involve free and robust debate, and that the Fiji Government take account of the full range of views expressed

The people of Fiji and the international community will judge the constitutional process on whether it results in a credible election that is consistent with basic principles of human rights and democracy. It is important that Fiji's constitution support principles of human rights, good governance, judicial independence and transparency and accountability, as well as freedoms of media, speech and association.

Fiji's constitution is ultimately a matter for the people of Fiji. It is their views that need to be heard and respected.

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Question No. 105

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji

Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon

Question

If political parties fail to register according to the Political Parties Decree, will the Australian Government suspend its support for the 2014 Fijian election?

Answer

Australia's position on Fiji is clear and consistent. We want to see Fiji return to democracy at the earliest opportunity, and we stand ready to help Fiji in doing that.

Where appropriate, we criticise setbacks in Fiji's electoral process, including the unjustifiable restrictions in Fiji's Political Parties Decree, as Senator Carr did in the Senate on 27 February 2013.

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Question No. 106

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji

Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon

Question

If political parties fail to contest the 2014 Fijian election and the military regime creates a party in an uncontested election, will Australia recognise this as a democratic election process?

Answer

It is too early to speculate on parties that may or may not contest the 2014 election in Fiji.

Question No. 107

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tariffs

Question in Writing

Senator Fawcett

Question

- A. *Given that Australian tariffs on the importation of horticultural products is very low to zero, what bargaining opportunities does Australia have to encourage importing countries to reduce their tariffs on Australian horticultural products?***
- B. *Has Australia ever used, or would consider using, restrictions on access to non-agricultural Australian products as leverage to reduce tariffs on imported Australian agricultural produce? If not, why not?***

Answer

- A. In all Australian trade negotiations, including FTA negotiations, the Government pursues a comprehensive approach to securing improved market access conditions for Australian exporters, including horticultural exporters. Trade negotiations are conducted on the basis of overall benefit to the national interest, not on the basis of a sector-by-sector comparison of concessions.
- B. Australia does not use increased trade restrictions as leverage to gain market access. As the Government's April 2011 Trade Policy Statement makes clear, trade liberalisation is good for its own sake. The Centre for International Economics in 2009 found that opening up the Australian economy to more trade has made Australian households better off on average by an estimated \$3,900 per annum.

The use of trade restrictions would also damage Australia's credibility as a global advocate for trade liberalisation, and weaken our arguments for other countries to open up their economies to trade.

Question No. 108

Program: DFAT

Topic: Beef exports to South Korea

Question in Writing

Senator Nash

Question

MLA has released figures of metric tonnes of Australian beef exports to South Korea. In 2011, 146,348 metric tonnes was exported. In 2012, 125,000 metric tonnes was exported, which is down 14%. Is the department or minister aware of these figures?

MLA has released figures of metric tonnes of Australian beef exports to South Korea. In 2011, 146,348 metric tonnes was exported. In 2012, 125,000 metric tonnes was exported, which is down 14%. Is the department or minister aware of these figures?

Answer

The Department uses official (ABS) data as its statistical source. In 2012, the official estimate for the amount of fresh, frozen and chilled (f.c.f.) beef exported by Australia to South Korea stands at 141,806 tonnes (metric tons). From the MLA website it can be seen that the figure of 125,000 tonnes for 2012 was forecast by them, in January 2012. At that time the latest available official estimates were in respect of November 2011.

The table below shows the official ABS estimates for the tonnage of fresh chilled and frozen (f.c.f) beef from Australia to South Korea in 2010, 2011 and 2012,

Australian exports of beef f.c.f. to South Korea: 2010 to 2012			
	CY2010	CY2011	CY2012
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes
Beef, f.c.f.	140,619	161,679	141,806

Question No. 109

Program: DFAT

Topic: Beef Exports to South Korea

Question in Writing

Senator Nash

Question

Can the department provide a breakdown on the reasons that beef exports to South Korea has decreased by 14%?

Answer

Customs data provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) indicates that South Korea's beef imports from all sources declined from 307,316 tonnes in 2011 to 264,376 tonnes in 2012, a fall of 14 per cent.

From 2011 to 2012, by source country and volume, South Korean beef imports from Australia declined by 9.7 per cent. By comparison, South Korean beef imports from the US declined by 17.6 per cent, New Zealand by 19.8 per cent and Mexico by 52.7 per cent.

The decline in South Korea's beef imports from 2011 to 2012 was primarily due to declining pork and chicken prices in the South Korean market, which attracted consumers away from beef, which remained expensive.

Beef exports to South Korea in 2011 were abnormally high due to that year's outbreak of foot and mouth disease in South Korea, which encouraged Korean consumers to purchase imported beef rather than the domestic product.

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Question No. 110

Program: DFAT

Topic: Beef exports to South Korea (tonnage exported)

Question in Writing

Senator Nash

Question

Can the department provide a figure of how many metric tonnes of beef were exported in 2011, 2012 and what has been exported to South Korea so far in 2013?

Answer

The tables below display the tonnage of frozen, chilled and fresh (f.c.f.) beef exports to Korea in 2011 and 2012, and January 2013 (which is the latest available information) – sourced from the ABS.

2011 and 2012

	<u>CY2011</u>	<u>CY2012</u>
	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>
Beef, f.c.f.	161,679	141,557

January 2013

	<u>Jan-13</u>
	<u>Tonnes</u>
Beef, f.c.f.	7,865

Question No. 111

Program: DFAT

Topic: South Korea - Australia FTA

Question in Writing

Senator Nash

Question

Can the department provide a detailed list of what is delaying the signing of the FTA with South Korea?

Answer

Concluding a high quality FTA with Korea is a key priority for the Government. Minister Emerson and his Korean colleague, former Foreign Minister Bark Tae-ho, have met regularly to address ways in which negotiations can move forward on outstanding issues.

The Government is engaging closely with the newly-inaugurated administration of President Park Geun-hye to resume negotiations as soon as possible. Transition to the new administration following President Park's inauguration on 25 February, the reallocation of trade negotiation responsibilities to a new Ministry and the confirmation process for the new Korean Trade Minister is continuing to impact our capacity to conclude quickly.

The Department cannot comment on the specific details of issues under negotiation, because doing so could prejudice the outcome of negotiations, including those with other FTA negotiating partners.

Question No. 112

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many ongoing staff recruited for this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?***
- B. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?***
- C. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?***

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such APS employment classifications are not applicable for EFIC staff.

- A.** EFIC recruited 5 ongoing staff – 1 SES equivalent and 4 non-SES equivalent staff.
- B.** For this financial year to date, EFIC recruited 2 non-ongoing, non-SES equivalent staff.
- C.** Nil.

Question No. 113

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?***
- B. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency in the financial year to date? What classification are these staff?***
- C. How many contract staff left department/agency in this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?***

Answer

- A. This financial year to date, 6 ongoing staff (2 SES equivalent and 4 non-SES equivalent) left EFIC.
- B. This financial year to date, 1 non-ongoing non-SES equivalent staff member left EFIC.
- C. Nil

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Question No. 114

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.***
- B. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.***

Answer

There are no plans for staff reduction.

Question No. 115

Program: EFIC

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012

http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html

In addition, please provide the following detail:

- A. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel? Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*
- B. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*
- C. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*
- D. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?*

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 116

Program: EFIC

Topic: Printing Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

How many documents (include the amount of copies) were printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer

Details for EFIC reports and papers printed in the current FYTD are detailed in the table below.

Document	Quantity
EFIC 2012 Annual Report	520
NSW Export Awards 2012 Promotion Cards	800
Office Stationary	10
Printing and re-printing of various case studies	21,560
Advertising Posters	3
Investor Flyers	100
Christmas Cards	500
EFIC booklet for Indaba conference collateral	100

Of these documents, the case studies and annual report were also published online.

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Question No. 117

Program: EFIC

Topic: Graduate Recruitment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How much has been spent on 2014 Graduate Recruitment to date? Please itemise and detail costs.***
- B. Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.***

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 118

Program: EFIC

Topic: Graduate Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. How much was spent on 2013 Graduate Training?

B. Provide details of what training was provided, why and the estimated cost for each.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 119

Program: EFIC

Topic: Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question:

- A. What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?**
- B. Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.**
- C. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.**
- D. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.**
- E. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.**
- F. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.**
- G. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?**

Answer

EFIC undertakes general advertising activities to generate awareness of EFIC's products and services among Australian exporters. EFIC has not been involved in any communication of a broader Government message to the public.

- A. Total advertising cost, for the financial year to date, is \$306,239 (valid to March 2013 excluding GST).**
- B. No campaign advertising has been undertaken to March 2013. EFIC ran ongoing print and online advertising designed to increase awareness of EFIC's services to help exporters overcome financial barriers. Creative input for all advertising was provided by the advertising agency, Banjo. EFIC works with the Government-appointed media buying agency, Universal McCann, when booking advertising.**

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- C. No.
- D. No.
- E. Not applicable.
- F. EFIC has 2 full-time equivalent staff who undertake ongoing in-house public relations and communications activities for EFIC.
- G. EFIC will continue its non-campaign advertising and in-house communications activities to foster awareness of EFIC's products and services in the export industry.

Question No. 120

Program: EFIC

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. What is the department/agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.**
- B. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.**
- C. What is the department/agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.**
- D. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.**
- E. What hospitality spend is the department/agency planning on spending? Detail date, location purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.**
- F. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.**
- G. What entertainment spend is the department/agency planning on spending? Detail date location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.**
- H. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.**
- I. Is the department/agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?**

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Answer

A & C.

EFIC's total entertainment and hospitality spend for this financial year to date is \$101,267.97.

EFIC's reporting systems do not capture hospitality and entertainment expenditure in such a way that would readily enable the breakdown of hospitality and entertainment expenditure by date, location, purpose and cost of each event. To manually collect this information would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

The total expenditure figure above captures hospitality and entertainment for EFIC's Australian clients, potential clients, other corporations, companies, institutions, development banks and agencies external to the Corporation, in addition to event hosting expenses associated with client and staff functions. This spending fulfils an important relationship-building role supporting EFIC's mandate to assist Australian companies overcome financial barriers to export.

EFIC is a self-funded corporation with well-established policies on the proper management of hospitality and entertainment expenses. All staff are required to justify the purpose of, and maintain written records for, each item of hospitality or entertainment expenditure. All expenditure and supporting documentation is reviewed and must be approved by EFIC's cost centre managers (Head of Department level) to ensure the criteria for expenditure has been met; Department heads' expenditure must in turn receive Executive approval.

B, D, F & I

Not applicable.

E, G & I.

EFIC's hospitality and entertainment spending for FY12-13 is expected to be in line with the entertainment and hospitality budget for FY12-13.

Question No. 121

Program: EFIC

Topic: Meeting Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *What is the department/agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event, including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What meeting spend is the department/agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***

Answer

A & C.

EFIC's total entertainment and hospitality spend for this financial year to date (as at 13 March 2013) is \$101,267.97. Meeting spend is not separately identified in this total.

This total expenditure captures hospitality and entertainment (including expenditure for external meetings) for EFIC's Australian clients, potential clients, other corporations, companies, institutions, development banks and agencies external to the Corporation, in addition to event hosting expenses associated with client and staff functions.

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EFIC's reporting systems do not capture expenditure in such a way that would readily enable the breakdown of this category of expenditure into hospitality, entertainment and meeting expenditure by date, location, purpose and cost of each event. To manually collect this information would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

This spending fulfils an important relationship-building role supporting EFIC's mandate to assist Australian companies overcome financial barriers to export. EFIC is a self-funded corporation with well-established policies on the proper management of hospitality and entertainment expenses. All staff are required to justify the purpose of, and maintain written records for each item of hospitality or entertainment expenditure. All expenditure and supporting documentation is reviewed and must be approved by EFIC's cost centre managers (head of department level) to ensure the criteria for expenditure has been met; department heads' expenditure must in turn receive Executive approval.

B & D.

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 122

Program: EFIC

Topic: Program Launch Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total program launch spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What program launch spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what program launch spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- E. *What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- F. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total program launch spend for 2011-12. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 123

Program: EFIC

Topic: Board Appointments

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.**
- B. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?**
- C. Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.**

Answer

- A. Board Title: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

Terms of appointment: All appointments are made in accordance with the EFIC Act 1991.

Tenure of appointment: appointments are on a part-time basis for 3 years. There is the possibility of re-appointment for a second term. A third term is also possible if the member has been appointed at any time as the Chairperson.

Members	Position	Term	
		From	To
Mr Angus Armour	Managing Director	31/10/2003	Board Decision
Mr Andrew Mohl	Chair	9/12/2011	8/12/2014
Ms Sally Pitkin	Deputy Chair	01/08/2010	31/07/2013
Mr Bruce Brook	Member	01/03/10	28/02/2013
Ms Jennifer Seabrook	Member	05/04/2011	04/04/2014
Mr David Evans	Member	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
Ms Deena Shiff	Member	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
Mr Nicholas Minogue	Member	09/12/2011	08/12/2014
DFAT Secretary /or Alternate	Government Member ex officio	Ongoing	

- B. Gender ratio 37.5 per cent female (not including ex officio members).
- C. There have not been any new Board appointments in the FYTD.

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Question No. 124

Program: EFIC

Topic: Freedom of Information (FOI)

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?***
- B. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for the financial year to date?***
- C. How many FOI requests has the department received in the financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?***

Answer

- A.** EFIC has not received (nor requested) any updated general advice on how to respond to FOI requests.
- B.** EFIC has not incurred any costs in processing FOI requests since 1 July 2012.
- C.** EFIC has not received any FOI requests since 1 July 2012.
There are no outstanding requests.

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Question No. 125

Program: EFIC

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location.***

- B. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.***

- C. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?***

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 126

Program: EFIC

Topic: Reviews

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- A. How many Reviews are being undertaken?*
- B. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?*
- C. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?*
- D. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?*
- E. Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?*
- F. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?*
- G. What reviews are planned?*
- H. When will each of these reviews be concluded?*

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 127

Program: EFIC

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.***
- B. *How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.***

Answer

- A. Under the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, EFIC as a relevant CAC Act body, is required to report details of Australian procurement contracts awarded on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system, where the total contract value is above \$400,000 or above \$9 million for construction contracts.

To provide details of consultancy contracts below this reporting threshold would entail significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, EFIC does not consider the additional work can be justified.

- B. In terms of reporting requirements for CAC Act bodies under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, EFIC has no further consultancies planned for this calendar year.

Question No. 128

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media Monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator: Eggleston

Question

- A. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?
- I. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - II. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?
 - III. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?
- B. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?
- I. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - II. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?
 - III. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

Answer

A. Not applicable.

B.

- I. EFIC has a contract with Dow Jones Factiva for a range of services including media monitoring and company search functions.
- II. For 2012-13, the estimated budget for the media monitoring component of EFIC's contract with Dow Jones Factiva was \$10,000 excluding GST.
- III. As at 14 February 2012, the media monitoring component of EFIC's contact with Dow Jones Factiva cost approximately \$10,464.50 excluding GST.

Question No. 129

Program: EFIC

Topic: Social Media

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued.***
- I. *Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?***
 - II. *If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks)***
- B. *If no, will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?***
- C. *Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)***

Answer

- A. There have been no changes since May 2012 Budget Estimates.
- B.
- I. EFIC's system records overall internet usage. EFIC only monitors individual usage of social media in circumstances where a concern has been raised.
 - II. Not applicable
- C. Yes, overall internet usage will continue to be monitored in the future.
- D. Social media does not impact on employee productivity and internet usage is at an acceptable level.

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Question No. 130

Program: EFIC

Topic: Internet

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office?

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 131

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staff Amenities

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list.

Answer

The following amenities are provided for staff use:

- bike store room
- 3 hired coffee machines
- showers.

EFIC's building also has a rooftop terrace facility. This area is available for staff use when not in use for client hospitality or other EFIC events.

Question No. 132

Program: EFIC

Topic: Coffee Machines

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.**
- B. Why were coffee machines purchased?**
- C. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?**
- D. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?**
- E. Who has access?**
- F. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?**
- G. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?**
- H. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff useage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.**
- I. Why are coffee machines rented?**
- J. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?**
- K. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?**
- L. Who has access?**
- M. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?**
- N. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?**

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Answer

A.-G.

EFIC has not purchased coffee machines for staff usage.

H. Yes

Number of machines:	3
Type:	Saeco Royal Cappuccino
Cost	Average total cost of \$729 per month.
Machine hire per month	\$130 (+ GST) each
Coffee Beans per 1kg bag	\$30 per bag
Hot Chocolate per 500g bag	\$14 per bag
Ongoing costs:	Refer to above
Date of rental:	April 2005

I. For use by EFIC's staff.

J. Yes.

K. EFIC is a self-funded agency.

L. All EFIC staff.

M. Included in the \$130 (plus GST) per month cost to hire each machine, is a fortnightly maintenance service, when the representative visits to restock coffee beans/hot chocolate.

There are no extra charges for service calls to fix or replace a machine.

N. Ongoing average monthly cost of maintaining the 3 machines (including restocking and hire fee) is approximately \$729 (see above).

Question No. 133

Program: EFIC

Topic: Contractors

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- A. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- B. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- C. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- D. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- E. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- F. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- G. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- H. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- I. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.*
- J. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*

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Answer

A - I.

EFIC has not employed the contractors identified in parts A to I in the 2012-13 financial year to date.

J. In the 2012-13 financial year; EFIC employed a number of contractors to undertake building and refurbishment works to EFIC's Export House office in Sydney.

Under the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, EFIC as a relevant CAC Act body, is required to report details of Australian procurement contracts awarded on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system, where the total contract value is above \$400,000 or above \$9 million for construction contracts.

To provide details of consultancy contracts below this reporting threshold would entail significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

Question No. 134

Program: EFIC

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *Could the department/agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.***
- B. *Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.***
- C. *Provide a list of grants that your department/agency administers that had uncommitted grants funding reduced as per the statement by the Finance Minister on 22 October 2012 (see http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_2102012.html). How much was funding reduced for grant?***

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 135

Program: EFIC

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.***

- B. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?***

- C. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?***

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 136

Program: EFIC

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?***
- B. If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)***
- C. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?***
- D. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?***

Answer

- A. Yes. EFIC's policy is to make payments three times per month.**
- B. Not applicable.**
- C. Not applicable.**
- D. Not applicable.**

Question No. 137

Program: EFIC

Topic: Stationery Requirements

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers / Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes with compliments slips) this financial year to date?***
- B. *What are the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?***

Answer

A. Not applicable

B. Stationery costs for the financial year to date are \$17,001.60

Question No. 138

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- B. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.***
- C. What is the cost for this financial year to date?***
- D. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- E. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.***
- F. What is the cost for this financial year to date?***
- G. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- H. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.***
- I. What is the cost for this financial year to date?***

Answer

- A.** EFIC has a subscription with pay TV provider; Foxtel for 2 units positioned in common staff areas of the building.
- B.** EFIC subscribes to FOXTEL's Business Package. Subscription to this package is for the purpose of staff use and enables access to relevant current affairs, business, financial and public affairs information relevant to EFIC work.
- C.** The cost of EFIC's pay-TV subscription for the financial year to date (as at 13 March 2013) is \$2,550.
- D-E.**

EFIC has subscriptions for the following newspapers:

- Sydney Morning Herald

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- Australian Financial Review
- The Australian
- The Daily Telegraph
- The Financial Times
- Dalton City News.

All newspaper subscriptions are for the purposes of staff use and enable access to relevant business, financial and other news relevant to EFIC work.

- F. EFIC records newspaper and magazine subscription expenditure in aggregate. Newspaper and magazine subscriptions cost approximately \$24,300 this financial year to date (as at 13 March 2013).

G-H.

EFIC's magazine subscriptions include the following:

- Trade Finance
- The Economist
- The Land
- Australian Journal of Mining
- BRW
- Global Trade Review
- IPI – Euromoney
- Thomson Reuters IFR
- KangaNews
- MiningNews.net
- Petroleum News
- PNG News
- Project Finance
- PFI
- Basis Point
- Mining Monthly.

All magazine subscriptions are for the purposes of staff use and enable access to business, financial and other news relevant to EFIC work.

- I. Please see part F for aggregate magazine and newspaper expenditure.

Question No. 139

Program: EFIC

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).**
- B. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- C. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- D. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- E. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed?**
- F. How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.**
- G. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.**
- H. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.**
- I. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?**

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Answer

- A. Not applicable.
- B. EFIC's systems do not record travel data in a way that would readily allow total expenditure to be broken down into the level of detail sought. To attempt to extract this data manually would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified.

EFIC records total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.

- C. EFIC's systems do not record planned travel in a way that would readily allow this information to be provided without significant diversion of resources.

All travel is arranged in line with EFIC's Corporate Travel Policy and Procedures and coordinated through specified travel arrangers.

This process involves the establishment of a clear business case for travel and a travel request which must be approved by EFIC's Executive (in the case of international travel) or the relevant delegated authority such as department heads (in the case of domestic travel).

- D. See answer to part C above.
- F. EFIC is not subject to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, and is not a participating CAC Act body to the Whole of Australian Government travel arrangements (WoAG). However, the guidelines on domestic and international travel arrangements including the 'best fare of the day' and 'lowest logical airfare' policy are embedded in EFIC's own Corporate Travel Policy and travel arrangements, commensurate with the value for money objectives within EFIC's Procurement Policy.
- G. Yes. EFIC provides Qantas Club memberships to employees who frequently fly overseas or interstate for business purposes, so that they may conduct that business effectively. Memberships are provided on a needs basis and require executive approval. EFIC currently incurs costs for 8 Qantas Club scheme memberships at a total cost of \$2,080 per annum.
- H. EFIC is not an APS body and as such APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff. Support or administrative staff such as Executive Assistants do not accompany members of EFIC's Executive or other SES level equivalent staff when travelling.

Question No. 140

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Legal Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***
- B. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***
- C. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***
- D. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.***

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

In relation to the responses below, please note:

- All costs are as at 6 March 2013.
- Gross costs are provided noting some of EFIC's legal spend for transactions is recoverable from EFIC's clients.
- Costs are inclusive of legal spend associated with EFIC's Commercial Account and the National Interest Account which EFIC administers on behalf of Government.
- Approximate breakdowns have been provided, a list of each legal service and individual cost cannot be provided as this would constitute a significant diversion of EFIC resources.

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- A. EFIC has an in-house legal department of 7 full-time and 2 part-time staff which provide legal services across EFIC's business. Internal legal services are not recorded in such a way that would readily enable a full list of services and costs to be provided. In these circumstances, EFIC does not consider the additional work can be justified.
- B. For the 2012-2013 financial year, as at 6 March 2013, EFIC's gross spend for legal services (inclusive of payable disbursements such as barristers' invoices but excluding any GST) from the Australian Government Solicitor was approximately \$64,000.

The services the Australian Government Solicitor provided and the approximate costs for each service expressed as a percentage of the gross spend are as follows:

- i. Litigation - approx. 11%
 - ii. Advisory - approx. 53%
 - iii. Secondment - approx. 37%
- C. For the 2012-2013 financial year, as at 6 March 2013, EFIC's gross spend for legal services (including any payable disbursements but excluding any GST) from private firms is approximately \$290,000.

Approximately 30% of this gross spend is recoverable from EFIC's clients. These legal costs are generally incurred in connection with transactions pursuant to which EFIC provides financial or insurance products and services to its clients.

- D. Nil.

Question No. 141

Program: EFIC

Topic: Education Expenses

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *Has there been a change to the department/agency's guidelines on study since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)? If yes, please provide details.***
- B. *For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.***

Answer

A. No

B. For this financial year to date, EFIC's education related expenditure has been \$130,367. A breakdown of individual courses would constitute a significant diversion of EFIC resources. The following summary has been provided:

All employees have participated in development courses that have ranged in length from one to three days including online Compliance Training completed over the year. Each course has been signed off by line managers and Human Resources Manager as a development objective for the individual's role. Courses attended include trade finance, project finance, performance management, first aid, media training, presentation skills, and loan management courses. Most participants were at non-SES equivalent levels. 2 non-SES staff members were granted Studies Assistance.

Question No. 142

Program: EFIC

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:***
- i. Total spending on these services***
 - ii. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification***
 - iii. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)***
 - iv. The names of all service providers engaged***
- B. *For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide;***
- i. The name and nature of the service purchased***
 - ii. Whether the service is one on one or group based and their employment classification***
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)***
 - iv. The total amount spent on the service***
 - v. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)***
- C. *Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:***
- i. The location used***
 - ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)***
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)***
 - iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location***

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Answer

A.

- i. Total spend on executive coaching/other trainings was \$66,887.
- ii. 9 staff, 7 SES equivalent and 2 non-SES equivalent, attended trainings
- iii. 9 staff, 7 SES equivalent and 2 non-SES equivalent
- iv. Providers used were Aspirall and Women in Banking and Finance.

B. A breakdown cannot be provided for each provider. The following summary information is available:

- The training provided was leadership and professional development coaching for SES equivalent and non-SES staff
- All training sessions were held on a one-on-one basis
- The total number of hours for each individual is not available and confidential coaching is not tracked on an hourly basis
- Complete packaged fixed costs were charged for services from both Aspirall and Women in Banking and Finance
- See response to part A i) for total amount spent on these services.

C.

- i. One external room was used for training provided by Aspirall offsite.
- ii. 7 SES equivalent (on one-on-one basis or with the staff member's manager invited) took part
- iii. 22 hours were involved
- iv. Cost incurred for the use of the external room was \$5,300.

Question No. 143

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

- A. Total spending on these services*
- B. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification*
- C. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- D. The names of all service providers engaged*

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (D), please provide:

- E. The name and nature of the service purchased*
- F. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based*
- G. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- H. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- I. The total amount spent on the service*
- J. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)*

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises please provide:

- K. The location used*
- L. The number of employees who took part on each occasion*
- M. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- N. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location*

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Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such, APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

- A. \$14,050 was spent on media training
- B. 7 staff were offered media training
- C. 7 staff have utilised these services. No study leave was granted for these training purposes.
- D. Mediaways Pty Ltd provided the training.

Provider & Service (E)	Structure (F)	No. of employees (G)	Total hours (H)	Total spend (I)	Description of fees (J)
Mediaways - Media interview and presentation skills training	One-on-one and group	7 staff - 3 executive and 4 non-executive	Approx.20 hours across all employees	\$14050	Mediaways is held on retainer for a monthly fee. Costs were a combination of hourly and normal fixed rates

K-N.

Not applicable. No location other than EFIC's premises were used.

Question No. 144

Program: EFIC

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme?***

- B. For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.***

- C. What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff has used the scheme this financial year to date.***

Answer

A. 2 non-SES equivalent.

B. 1 non-SES equivalent.

C. EFIC offer 3 months paid Maternity and Adoption leave. This financial year 2 employees have been granted this. As part of our Special leave provision, we also provide 5 days for Becoming a Father on each occasion. This financial year 7 employees have been granted this.

Question No. 145

Program: EFIC

Topic: Training for Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.***
- B. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.***
- C. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.***

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 146

Program: EFIC

Topic: Corporate Cars

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How cars are owned by each department and agency?*
- B. Where is the car/s located?*
- C. What is the car/s used for?*
- D. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?*
- E. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?*

Answer

- A. EFIC owns 12 cars.
- B. The cars are located in Sydney.
- C. The cars are for personal use.
- D. The cars are fully costed to personal employment packages.
- E. The distance travelled by each car this FYTD is unknown at the stage as these figures will only be provided by the drivers on 1 April 2013.

Question No. 147

Program: EFIC

Topic: Taxi Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date?***
- B. Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.***
- C. What are the reasons for taxi costs?***

Answer

EFIC's systems do not readily enable the separation of this information from total travel expenses. To manually breakdown records to supply the information required would constitute a significant diversion of resources and EFIC does not believe that the additional work can be justified.

EFIC records its total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.

Question No. 148

Program: EFIC

Topic: Hire Car Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date?***
- B. Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.***
- C. What are the reasons for hire car costs?***

Answer

EFIC's systems do not readily enable the separation of this information from total travel expenses. To manually breakdown records to supply the information required would constitute a significant diversion of resources and I do not believe that the additional work can be justified.

EFIC records its total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.

Question No. 149

Program: EFIC

Topic: Credit Cards

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card

Please update details of the following:

B. What action is undertaken if there corporate credit card is misused?

C. How is corporate credit card use monitored?

D. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?

E. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.

F. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and therefore APS employment classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

A. Total of 62 EFIC staff have a corporate credit card.

a. This includes 13 SES-equivalent staff, and

b. 49 non-SES equivalent staff.

B-F.

EFIC has an established corporate credit card policy with guidelines for use and monitoring of credit card expenditure. These policies and procedures have not changed since October 2012. There have been no instances of credit card misuse in this time.

Question No. 150

Program: EFIC

Topic: Electronic Equipment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?**
- B. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date?**
- C. Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.**
- D. Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.**

Answer:

- A. Not applicable.
- B. Not applicable.
- C. Yes, EFIC provides the following electronic equipment to staff for both temporary and/or ongoing use:

Equipment	Purchase cost
Home desktop	\$10,000
Home printer	\$2,000
iPad	\$7,100
Smart phone	\$49,700
Wireless cards	\$1,300
Laptops	\$45,500

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Thumb drives	\$900
Satellite phone	\$1,300
Total	\$117,800

Total ongoing cost for this equipment is \$4,000 (covering repair, consumables and monthly minimum phone and data usage).

All EFIC staff are entitled to the ongoing use of IT equipment for work purposes pending approval from EFIC's executive. All EFIC staff are also entitled to borrow IT equipment on loan for short periods of time (usually less than two weeks) for work purposes. EFIC is not an APS body, as such APS employment classifications do not apply to EFIC staff. The number of staff (both executive and non-executive staff) with ongoing use of EFIC IT equipment are detailed below.

Equipment	Staff with ongoing use
Home desktop	3
Home printer	6
iPad	6
Smart Phone	60
Wireless card	2
Laptops	6

D. Not applicable.

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Question No. 151

Program: EFIC

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?***
- B. What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?***

Answer

- A. EFIC's current electricity purchasing agreement commenced on 1 October 2011 for a two year term.
- B. Electricity cost for this financial year to date is \$51,373.

Question No. 152

Program: EFIC

Topic: Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. *Have any briefings and/or provision of information has been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:***
- B. *How are briefings requests commissioned?***
- C. *What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.***
- D. *Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.***
- E. *Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.***
- F. *How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.***
- G. *Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:***
- H. *How are briefings requests commissioned?***
- I. *What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.***
- J. *Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.***
- K. *Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.***
- L. *How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.***
- M. *Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?***

Answer

Nil.

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Question No. 153

Program: EFIC

Topic: Shredders

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders in this financial year?***

- B. If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.***

Answer

- A. Yes, EFIC has purchased shredders this FY.

- B. EFIC purchased two shredders. Each shredder cost \$3,075.00 (incl. GST) at a total cost of \$6,150.00. Shredders were purchased to assist EFIC in meeting its information security obligations.

No additional shredders have been purchased since the October 2012 Estimates.

Question No. 154

Program: EFIC

Topic: Protective Security Policy Framework

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

Answer

EFIC is not currently required to comply with the PSPF. However as better practice guidance EFIC follows the majority of the mandatory requirements relevant to its operations.

Governance Arrangements

- EFIC's Head of Management Information Systems (MIS) advises senior management and the Board on the security of EFIC's Information Communications Technology (ICT) systems.
- Security risks and corresponding controls are detailed in EFIC's Risk & Control Matrix which is reviewed and updated biannually by the Audit Committee and Board.
- EFIC maintains a Business Continuity Framework that incorporates a Business Continuity Plan which is reviewed annually by the Audit Committee and Board.

Personnel Security

- Pre-employment probity checking is conducted for all staff subject to standard employment contracts and all temporary staff with contracts or tenure of longer than 3 months. In addition, all EFIC staff are subject to re-screening every 3 years or when there is a significant change in job responsibilities.
- EFIC arranges for staff to obtain and maintain the appropriate level of Security Clearance where necessary.

Information Security

- EFIC maintains a Corporate Information Security Policy which is reviewed and updated annually.
- EFIC's Information Security Charter establishes the framework for the direction and coordinated management of information security.
- EFIC has a procedure for the security classification and protective control of information involving correspondence with other government agencies.
- EFIC maintains access control rules consistent with its business requirements and legal obligations. Access controls and usage is audited annually.
- EFIC has change management policies to ensure that during all stages of ICT systems development there are security measures in place.

Physical Security

EFIC maintains a Physical Security Risk Assessment and Action Plan.

General security measures include:

- Onsite security staff;
- Access control systems;
- Master key systems with security door hardware;
- CCTV;
- Offsite alarm monitoring and response plans;
- Duress facilities & alarms;
- Building lock down facilities; and
- After hours security patrols and emergency response as required 24 hours.

Question No. 155

Program: EFIC

Topic: Office Locations

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by:

- A. Department/Agency.*
- B. Location.*
- C. Leased or Owned.*
- D. Size.*
- E. Number of Staff at each location and classification.*
- F. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre.*
- G. If owned, the value of the building.*
- H. Depreciation of buildings that are owned.*
- I. Type of functions and work undertaken*

Answer

- A. Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC).
- B. EFIC's office location is Export House, Level 10, 22 Pitt St, Sydney NSW. EFIC also provides the services of 1 EFIC staff member working out of Austrade's Melbourne office and 1 EFIC staff member working out of Austrade's Perth office.
- C. EFIC's office is owned by EFIC.
- D. EFIC's office space is approx. 2,200 square metres.
- E. Of EFIC's total staff headcount of 88 (FTE) staff members – 86 staff are located in Sydney, 1 FTE staff member is located in Melbourne and 1 FTE staff member is located in Perth.
- F. N/A.
- G. The value of EFIC's building (Export House) and land as at 30 June 2012 is \$38.9 million.
- H. Depreciation of the building as at 30 June 2012 was \$0 (due to revaluation).
- I. All of EFIC's activities are undertaken from this location. Client service activities are also undertaken from the Melbourne and Perth Austrade offices.

Question No. 156

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:

By Department or agency:

- A. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.*
- B. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location*
- C. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.*
- D. How many are graphic designers?*
- E. How many are media managers?*
- F. How many organise events?*
- G. Do any departments/ agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What was the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?*

Answer

- A. EFIC has 2 relevant non-SES equivalent staff – one Senior Manager Public Relations & Communications and one Manager, Communications and Marketing. These two staff members are located in EFIC's main office in Sydney.
- B. Nil.
- C. Nil.
- D-F. EFIC employs one graphic designer on a freelance basis as part of a broader marketing function. The two PR and communications staff referred to in part A provide media management and event organisation services where necessary in collaboration with EFIC's broader marketing function.
- G. No EFIC does not have independent media studios.

Question No. 157

Program: DFAT

Topic: Treaty on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea

Question in Writing

Senator Madigan

Question

The CMATS treaty between Australia and Timor-Leste can, according to Article 12 of the treaty, be unilaterally terminated by either party at any time, now that a development plan has not been agreed to before the end date of 23rd February 2013.

The Foreign Minister gave several detailed answers to my questions in the Senate. In those answers the Minister referred to an independent reserve estimate study that is currently underway.

- A. Can you advise when that study commenced and what its estimated reporting date will be?*
- B. As this study has been agreed to by all the involved parties can you advise whether the Australian and Timor-Leste governments are kept informed of ongoing developments as they occur or will this information be withheld until the final report is issued?*

In my question to the Minister on whether Australia would be prepared to engage in maritime boundary negotiations if the CMATS treaty were terminated, the Minister stated, understandably, that he would not speculate on what action Australia would take in such an event. However, it seems unlikely that this scenario has not been considered and some plans formulated to cover this possibility.

- C. Can you advise whether any plans have been drawn up to cover such a contingency?*
- D. Have other legal avenues been considered, should a dispute over maritime boundaries arise?*
- E. Are you aware of any plans for Australia to rejoin the UNCLOS process from which we withdrew in 2002?*
- F. Can you advise how many meetings have been held between the Australian and Timor-Leste Governments on this matter over the past two years?*
- G. Who were the representatives at those meetings?*
- H. Can you advise how many meetings have been held between the Australian Government and Woodside on this matter over the last two years?*

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- I. Who were the representatives at those meetings and were any third parties involved?**
- J. Does the government include the Timor-Leste government in any development negotiations it has with Woodside?**

Answer

- A. Australia and Timor-Leste have worked towards an independent reserve estimate study since November 2011. Agreement to proceed with the study was reached by the Sunrise Commission in March 2012. Tenders to undertake the reserve estimate study were sought in November 2012 and are being assessed. The reporting date has yet to be finalised.
- B. The Sunrise Commission is responsible for the independent reserve estimate study. The Australian and Timor-Leste Governments will be advised of ongoing developments through the Commission.
- C. Australia remains committed to the existing treaty framework, including CMATS, which was agreed after long and complex negotiations between Australia and Timor-Leste. The Australian Government continues to focus its efforts on achieving a mutually agreeable development option for Greater Sunrise consistent with the existing treaties.
- D. As a general position, Australia's preference is to settle maritime boundaries by consultation and negotiation. If disputes arise we seek to settle them by such means in a spirit of bilateral cooperation.
- E. There are no plans to change Australia's declaration that it does not accept the dispute settlement provisions of the 1982 *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, or by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice, for disputes relating to sea boundary delimitations.

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- F. Australia is focussed on development of the Greater Sunrise area in its discussions with Timor-Leste. The Minister for Resources and Energy, Mr Ferguson, emphasised Australia's commitment to work with Timor-Leste to develop the Greater Sunrise area consistent with the Timor Sea treaty framework in discussions with his counterpart, the Timorese Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, on 21-22 February 2013. Australian and Timor-Leste Government officials regularly discuss development of Greater Sunrise at meetings of the Sunrise Commission. The Sunrise Commission has met five times in the past two years.
- G. On discussions related to development of the Greater Sunrise area in the Sunrise Commission, Australia and Timor-Leste are represented by their respective Sunrise Commissioners and Timor-Leste's National Petroleum Authority, the joint regulatory authority responsible for the portion of the Greater Sunrise area in the Joint Petroleum Development Area.
- H. Australian Government Ministers, their staff and officials from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade meet regularly with representatives from Woodside and other Greater Sunrise Joint Venture partners to discuss their interests in Australia and overseas, including in the Timor Sea.
- I. See answer H above.
- J. The Greater Sunrise Joint Venture partners are invited on occasion to discuss development of the Greater Sunrise area with the Australian and Timor-Leste Governments through the Sunrise Commission. In December 2012, a workshop on development of the Greater Sunrise area, involving the Australia and Timor-Leste Sunrise Commissioners and the Greater Sunrise Joint Venture partners, was held in Australia under the auspices of the Sunrise Commission.

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Question No. 158

Program: SED/DFAT

Topic: West Papuan prisoners

Question in Writing

Senator Di Natale

Question

- A. *Is the Department aware that West Papuan prisoners August Sananay Kraar, Dominikus Sorabut, Edison Waromi, Ferdinand “Feri” Pakage, Filep Karma, Forkorus Yaboisembut, Luis Gedi, Jefrai Murip, Selpius Bobii, Buktar Tabuni are currently being held in Abepura prison in Indonesia?***
- B. *Have any Australian diplomatic staff visited these prisoners? Are any staff planning to visit them?***
- C. *Does the Department agree that the above list of prisoners are political prisoners (i.e. imprisoned for political offences such as free speech, free assembly, and displaying the Morning Star flag) rather than conventional criminals?***

Answer

A. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is aware of a number of Papuan prisoners currently held in Abepura prison, including Filep Karma, Forkorus Yaboisembut, Edison Gladius Waromi, Selvius Bobii, Dominikus Sorabut and August Sananay Kraar. We understand Buchtar Tabuni was released on parole from Abepura prison in January 2013.

B. No Australian diplomatic staff have visited these prisoners, or intend to visit them.

The Australian government has no jurisdiction to investigate crimes in Indonesia, just as Indonesian authorities have no authority to do so in Australia, and Australia has no consular responsibilities for non-Australians in prison in Indonesia.

Occasionally, in the course of routine Embassy meetings on political and legal issues in the Papua provinces, Embassy staff meet with legal counsel who represent prisoners, including some of those listed above.

C. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is not in a position to confirm the specific offences for which each of the above-named have been imprisoned. Some political activities, such as displaying the Morning Star Flag and campaigning for Papuan independence, continue to attract criminal penalties under Indonesian law.

The Australian Government supports freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, even when we disagree with the political objectives of those demonstrating. We make this point regularly to the Indonesian government, and continue to register the importance of safeguarding freedom of expression, including in the Papuan provinces. This includes representations at the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of Indonesia in May 2012, where Australia recommended Indonesia intensify its efforts to respect and uphold freedom of expression, including political expression, for all of its citizens; as well as representations regarding specific cases, including raising Australia's concerns at the March 2012 conviction for subversion of five of the above-named following the Third Papuan Congress of October 2011.

Question No. 159

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hezbollah

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

On a broader but related issue, your department's website has quite a comprehensive page talking about our obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions in terms of counter-terrorism that goes both to the freezing of assets but also the prescription of organisations as terrorist organisations. Other countries such as the US, Canada, the Netherlands, Egypt and Bahrain have all banned Hezbollah as an entire organisation—a step that Australia has not taken. In fact, Mr Brennan, the US counter-terrorism chief, has told his EU counterparts that a failure to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation makes it harder to defend our countries and protect our citizens. In light of this incident where there has been clearly interaction between Australia and its citizens and Hezbollah and terrorist activities and those statements from the US plus pressure from other stakeholders, is Australia reconsidering its 2003 decision to not list the whole of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation?

Senator Bob Carr: I am interested in the arguments about it and I am interested in what implications this case has for Australia moving our policy from what you say is a 2003 position, and I will seek further advice.

Answer

Hezbollah is already listed by Australia pursuant to UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1373, which requires Australia to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist activities.

Under the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945*, the Minister of Foreign Affairs must list a person or entity if satisfied on reasonable grounds that the person or entity is (a) a person who commits, or attempts to commit, terrorist acts or participates in or facilitates the commission of terrorist acts; (b) an entity owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such persons; (c) a person or entity acting on behalf of, or at the direction of such persons or entities.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Budget Estimates 2012–2013, 14 February 2013

Thus an offence is committed under the Act if a person or entity uses or deals with an asset owned or controlled by Hezbollah or allows it to be used or dealt with.

Such listings are for a three year duration, and Hezbollah's listing expires on 25 November 2013 unless relisted.

My department is actively reviewing Hezbollah's listing status and will soon make recommendations on the actions I might take. These actions could include re-listing Hezbollah for an additional three years or designating additional persons or entities linked to Hezbollah, pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1373.

The other relevant listing process is the listing of terrorist organisations under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, administered by the Attorney General's Department. This process is entirely separate to the UNSC 1373 process. There are currently seventeen groups on this list, including Hezbollah's External Security Organisation (ESO), which was relisted under the Criminal Code on 10 May 2012 for an additional three years.

For an organisation to be listed as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code, the Attorney General must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the organisation is (a) directly or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning or assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not an act has occurred); or (b) advocates the doing of a terrorist act (whether it has occurred or will occur).

A Criminal Code listing attracts a number of offences including membership, recruiting for, training or receiving training from, and providing support for a listed organisation whereas a 1373 listing does not.

Question No. 160

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

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Senator McEwen

Question

What is the level of travel advice for the Philippines?

Answer

The following advice is current and ongoing.

Australians are advised to exercise a high degree of caution (level 2 of 4) overall in the Philippines because of the high threat of terrorist attack and the high level of serious crime. Australians are advised to reconsider their need to travel (level 3 of 4) to **eastern Mindanao** due to very high levels of violent crime. Australians are strongly advised not to travel (level 4 of 4) to **central and western Mindanao, including the Sulu Archipelago and surrounding waters**, due to the very high threat of terrorist attack, kidnapping, violent crime and violent clashes between armed groups.