

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**  
**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—BUDGET ESTIMATES, 3 & 4 JUNE 2015**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

<b>Q No.</b>	<b>Program: Division or Agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Broad topic</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Proof Hansard, page &amp; hearing date or Written Q</b>	<b>Date Rec'd</b>	<b>Date Tabled</b>
1	DFAT	Wong	Protocol – DFAT Ministerial travel guidelines	<p>Senator WONG: Can I request a copy of that be tabled? You will obviously want to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We can take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard, Page 8, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15
2	DFAT	Wong	Protocol – Mr Brady	<p>Senator WONG: In addition to [Ambassador Brady], were there any DFAT officials or staff present for that arrival?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: I would like a copy of the CERHOS guidelines which are available to your heads of mission. I want to know what document your heads of mission have.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Can I take that on notice? They are not our guidelines, and therefore—</p> <p>Senator WONG: No, but they are documents that your staff have.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: No. The normal practice, as I am sure you would appreciate, is that the originator and the owner of the guidelines would need to be consulted about making the document available. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did you understand that to be a reference to the Prime Ministerial visit guidelines that we were discussing earlier? Or is there some other document?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I took it to be a reference to the CERHOS guidelines.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you—the ones that we were discussing earlier.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Correct.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And you are taking on notice to provide your version of them, as held by your people.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: That is correct.</p> <p>[...]</p>	Proof Hansard, Page 9, 13, 19, 14, 15, 17, 20, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

			<p>Senator WONG: Perhaps you could take on notice the date of the conversations with the Foreign Minister. Did you— [...]</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will take that on notice, Senator. [...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Mr Varghese—just to make it clear—you are declining to answer to this Senate committee whether or not resignation was canvassed as between Ambassador Brady and yourself.</p> <p>Senator Brandis: Senator Wong, Mr Varghese is not declining to do anything other than canvass in a public arena a conversation which was understood by both parties to be a confidential conversation. Because this is a matter of interest to you, I have said that we will take this matter on notice so that we can consider the basis on which you assert the questions are legitimate questions with due reflection. [...]</p> <p>Senator Brandis: Senator Wong, you have explained the basis upon which you assert that these questions are legitimate questions. Mr Varghese and I have explained why it is inappropriate for them to be answered. What we will do in order to give appropriate consideration to the basis on which you assert they ought to be answered is take them on notice and consider them. [...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are you aware that the Ambassador canvassed his resignation? Senator Brandis: I have no knowledge of the matter. Senator WONG: I am asking you the question again, Mr Varghese. Senator Brandis: The question has been taken on notice. Senator WONG: You are taking on notice the question as to whether the Foreign Minister was advised. Senator Brandis: Senator, out of courtesy to the committee, given that we have taken the premise which you assert to be a fact as a question on notice, it would follow that we would take a subsequent question based on that unverified premise also on notice. [...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have you seen, or do you have any knowledge of, any report, file note or other document in relation to the incident of the Prime Minister's arrival on 25 April in Paris? Senator Brandis: [...] if you want to [...] ask whether there were any file notes in relation to the Prime Minister's arrival in Paris then we will take that on notice. [...]</p> <p>CHAIR: Could I ask when Mr Brady was appointed to the position of Australian Ambassador to France?</p>			
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				Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice.			
3	DFAT	Ludlam	Burma	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I do not know whether it would make more sense to have this taken on notice: I am keen to get an idea of how much less overall we are spending on Burma than last financial year and the one before. Would you dispute my contention that it has actually been quite a steep net loss?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Yes. At the moment, in terms of our funding for 2014-15, it would be similar in terms of the bilateral program to last year. We can get those figures for you but I think you will find that, between 2013-14 and 2014-15, when you add the humanitarian in, it will either be similar or slightly increased.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Would you be able to clarify for us—I do not know that it is worth going through the spreadsheet, back and forth, now—what the base funding is and when the emergency funding or the humanitarian funding arrives; whether it is being drawn from other parts of the country where, presumably, there were already identified areas of need; or whether it came from a separate appropriation, just how much of the breakdown.</p>	Page 24, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15
4	DFAT	Singh	Avoidable blindness	<p>Senator SINGH: Can you advise the total overseas development assistance allocated within the 2015-16 international development budget for programs targeting avoidable blindness, eye health and disability support for people with unavoidable blindness and vision impairment?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator SINGH: So you do not have any kind of figures on the amount in the 2015-16 budget that targets avoidable blindness? You do not have that figure?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator SINGH: I think you have taken that on notice, haven't you, and the quantum of those three programs.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Yes, I have.</p>	Page 25, 28, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

5	DFAT	Wong	Ministerial offices – conduct	<p>Senator WONG: I will ask a very precise question. There are four parts to the code which deal with interaction between ministerial staff and your staff, in that it says that the staff member must:</p> <p><i>“7. Treat with respect and courtesy all those with whom they have contact in the course of their employment.</i></p> <p><i>10. Not knowingly or intentionally encourage or induce a public official by their decisions, directions or conduct to breach the law or parliamentary obligations or fail to comply with an applicable code of ethical conduct.</i></p> <p><i>11. Acknowledge that ministerial staff do not have the power to direct APS employees in their own right and that APS employees are not subject to their direction.</i></p> <p><i>12. Recognise that executive decisions are the preserve of Ministers and public servants and not ministerial staff acting in their own right.”</i></p> <p>I want to know if, to your knowledge, any of your officers have raised with any other officer in the department concern about conduct inconsistent with any of those aspects of the statement of standards or otherwise.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am not aware of any such concern or complaint. I am happy to take on notice whether that may have occurred and was not brought to my attention.</p>	Page 32, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15
6	DFAT	McEwen	Staffing	<p>Senator McEWEN: Has there been any change to the ratio of SES band employees who were pre-merger DFAT versus AusAID?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take on notice whether the ratios have changed. Do you mean the ratio that we had in old DFAT and old AusAID compared to the ratio we have in the combined DFAT-AusAID?</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice, but I do not expect there would be a substantial change.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: Perhaps while you are doing that, could you give me an update on the numbers of pre-merger AusAID staff at each of the APS levels—SES bands 1 to 3, executive level 2, executive level 1 and the APS 4 to 6—who have taken voluntary redundancies?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Sure. We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: And also the number of pre-merger DFAT staff at each of those APS levels who have also taken voluntary redundancies?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Yes.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: Okay. So there were 26 persons who have been promoted?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Correct.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: How many of those, if any, were former AusAID staff?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 33, 34, 38, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

				<p>Senator McEWEN: Would any of them have been?  Mr Varghese: Sure, yes. Quite a few of them.  Senator McEWEN: Quite a few.  [...]  Senator McEWEN: Can you tell me how many people were promoted as a result of that 2013 round?  Mr Varghese: At the Band 1 level it was 26. At the Band 2 level it was 13. I did one promotion at the Band 3 level, which is the Deputy Secretary level.  Senator McEWEN: Those are the 2013 figures?  Mr Varghese: No, those are the 2015 figures. I would have to take on notice what the 2013 figures were.</p>			
7	DFAT	McEwen	Security clearances	<p>Senator McEWEN: How much is it costing the department to undertake all these additional security clearances for AusAID staff?  Mr Fisher: The estimate I have is \$1.3 million between 2014-2015 and the 2016-2017 financial years.  Senator McEWEN: What is the breakdown over those two financial years?  Mr Fisher: I do not have that breakdown. I could take it on notice, if you like.</p>	Page 35, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
8	DFAT	Fawcett	Vanuatu	<p>Senator FAWCETT: I ask you to take on notice to provide the Committee with an update of the programs that were in existence and what has happened to them in terms of the training infrastructure that was set up, some of the microbusinesses that were established under that and whether there is going to be a focus on re-establishing and capitalising on the training and investment those communities have made as opposed to a whole new raft of measures that may not pick up where we have got to before. Thank you.  Senator McEWEN: To follow on from what Senator Fawcett said about Vanuatu: in that answer would you also be able to address the program that Australia had at the hospital in Port Vila? Both Senator Fawcett and I were fortunate to visit that there. Australia was funding a program to train midwives I do not know what the state of the hospital is.  Mr Sloper: I am happy to take that on notice along with the earlier request.</p>	Page 37, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
9	DFAT	McEwen	Staff surveys	<p>Senator McEWEN: Would it be possible to get copies of the latest staff surveys—the questions?  Mr Varghese: Can I take that on notice?  Senator McEWEN: Yes you can. Is there any reason you would not be able to provide the questions that were asked?  Mr Varghese: I do not want to go into a long list of reasons why I could not agree to it, but there are a couple of angles that I just need to think a little bit about.</p>	Page 38, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

				<p>[...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: Were there any reports arising from the surveys that you would be able to provide to us?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We make the surveys available throughout the department so all staff get to see it. They do not get to see the surveys of other parts of the department; they get to see the surveys relating to the department as a whole. Each division will get its own divisional results. We do make it as widely available as possible.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: Are you unable to provide the surveys because they have—</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am not saying I am unable to provide it. I will just take it on notice.</p>			
<b>10</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Nauru</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: My question is in relation to works on the Republic of Nauru which come under your remit—if they do come under your remit—because of the operation of section 5AA(1):</p> <p>(d) a work that is proposed to be carried out by or for the Commonwealth by way of assistance to an overseas country; or</p> <p>(e) a work declared by the regulations not to be a public work.</p> <p>So there is a provision of the Public Works Committee Act that allows non-scrutiny, if you like, of expenditure because it is deemed to be aid. I have here an AusTender document 13-14 detailing \$2.977 billion worth of expenditure in relation to contracts in Nauru. Is any of that work—and you may well need to take it on notice— subject to the operation of the provision of 'aid to a country' in your budget?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I do not know the answer to that, and it would appear—</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I am happy for it to go on notice?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will take it on notice.</p>	<b>Page 40, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>ODA-eligible expenditure</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Mr Varghese, I was hoping you would have this information because it would inform our deliberations today—if not, could you take it on notice. Could you provide the committee with a departmental breakdown—a table—of budget estimates for 2014-15 and 2015-16 for ODA eligible expenditure by all government departments?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: That is probably already covered in what we have either on our website or in the budget document. But the chief financial officer may be able to add.</p> <p>Mr Wood: Yes, we would be happy to provide that information. We can take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 41, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

<b>12</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Overseas aid spending</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Previous budgets have provided the breakdown on overseas aid spending, as I have mentioned, and, as I said, it is not in this budget. Was that a decision of the department to not include that breakdown, or was that a request? [...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So you will take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will.</p>	<b>Page 41, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Bilateral aid – Cambodia, Nauru, Burma</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I want to go back to the figure you gave of \$477.3 million in bilateral aid to PNG. For the same financial year, could I also get the funding for Cambodia, Nauru and Burma?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Cambodia is \$52.4 million, Burma \$70.1 million and Nauru \$21.2 million. If you want to look at total flows on those, we can provide those as well.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you—could you do that.</p>	<b>Page 82, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>McLucas</b>	<b>PNG – customs negotiations</b>	<p>Senator McLUCAS: I would like to ask some questions about the proposal for pre-clearance of freight going either by air or sea from North Queensland to Papua New Guinea, and the role that Foreign Affairs has played in talking about that proposal with PNG to progress the idea. It is basically an idea that has been around for some time, led by the Australian Papua New Guinea Business Council, that would facilitate PNG customs officials being based in Australia so that goods exiting the airport in Cairns and the seaport in Townsville would be able to be cleared in Australia by PNG, and would therefore not necessarily have to go through Port Moresby airport or Port Moresby seaport but direct to a mine or another town in PNG. Is that an issue that someone in the room knows something about?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am not familiar with what you have raised, and clearly we are not the lead department on it— that would be the Department of Immigration and Border Protection—so to the extent that there may or may not have been any DFAT involvement, it would have been in the context of the overall relationship. Unless there is anyone here who actually has firsthand knowledge of it, I would like to take it on notice, if I may.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: When I went to talk to Customs last week, they suggested I should come and talk to you.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am sorry you are getting the run-around, but clearly the procedures applying to the clearance of goods leaving Australia is not the responsibility of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Customs indicated—I will just find the exact quote; if I point you to the Hansard of Monday 25 May, on page 56. It should be the person who</p>	<b>Page 45, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

				<p>might be able to answer some questions. The Customs official indicated that he thought it would be led by Foreign Affairs, in terms of a negotiation between the two countries about having PNG customs officials being able to be located in Australia.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Let me take it on notice and follow up for you, Senator.</p>			
15	DFAT	McEwen	<b>Funding allocation – integration of IT systems</b>	<p>Senator McEWEN: When the amalgamation [DFAT-AusAID integration] occurred, there was no special budget allocation for integration of IT systems?</p> <p>Mr Spackman: Yes, there was. We were given a base allocation. I will have to take on notice what that figure actually was. Due to the complexity not only of getting around the globe but of combining two disparate systems across two different business models, it was a little bit unsure in the early stages.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: I appreciate, Mr Spackman, that you have taken on notice what your internal allocation of funding for this process was—the base amount, as you said.</p>	<b>Page 46, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
16	DFAT	McGrath	<b>Maldives</b>	<p>Senator McGRATH: Mr Varghese, in previous estimates I inquired about the steps taken by the government in relation to the Maldives. Sadly, this year the outlook for democracy and freedom in that country has deteriorated significantly, with the government arresting and now jailing the former and the first freely elected democratic president of the Maldives. These actions have been condemned by Canada, the United States, the European Union, India, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and I think Australia has also raised concerns about the deterioration in this country. Only this week, further leaders of minor parties have also been arrested. I was wondering if you could provide an update on the situation in the Maldives and what steps Australia is taking to express its displeasure in relation to the curtailment of democratic rights in a fellow member of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: [...] I will have to take on notice and provide to the committee more detail in the absence of the officer.</p> <p>Senator McGRATH: If you could. One thing I should also raise is that the former president, Mohamed Nasheed, who is currently in jail, has been refused medical treatment. I would be interested to hear what response the government of the Maldives are giving to the concerns raised by the Australian government and other countries.</p>	<b>Page 47, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>



17	DFAT	Wong	Overseas aid spending	<p>Senator WONG: Does the table I have sought effectively give me a disaggregation of the \$3 billion at 1.2?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Correct. That is what is put on our website. The table that you have in front of you—table 1—is the total aid program of \$4.052 billion. That includes funding that DFAT is provided in addition to the funding that goes to all the government departments.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was this change proposed by the department?</p> <p>Mr Wood: I would need to take that on notice. We did some analysis following the integration, because we ended up with lots of small programs that we had inherited from three different portfolios.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you. I understand I would like to understand when this change was proposed. Can I get the date. Was that proposed in advice? You will have to take this on notice, Mr Wood. I am just going to articulate it; is that all right?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Sure, yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: If you can enlighten me now, that would be good. When was it proposed? When was it put to the minister's office? When was the decision made? Was this an option that the department was asked to provide or did the department decide to provide it of its own accord?</p> <p>Mr Wood: The timing was probably about January or February. As you would appreciate we had to make a number of changes to the central budget management system to reflect this, so it was earlier in the calendar year. We will provide those precise details on notice.</p>	Page 51, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
18	DFAT	Wong	Multilateral funds	<p>Senator WONG: Question on notice 154 from earlier this year where I asked—I think it was me—the period for which contributions to particular multilateral funds subsisted. What I was trying to seek was really the point you made before—when we give a contribution to the World Bank is that for one financial year or do we do it for three financial years et cetera. You did answer that, you gave me a good table—I wonder if it could be updated, perhaps on notice.</p>	Page 52, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15
19	DFAT	Fawcett	Aid effectiveness study	<p>Senator FAWCETT: Against the recommendations from that [aid effectiveness study], are you benchmarking our progress on initiatives like this? How many of those recommendations for aid effectiveness does this tick off in making a program more effective, in terms of outcomes against the dollar spent?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I would have to take on notice how many of the recommendations it ticks off.</p>	Page 55, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

20	DFAT	Wong	DFAT speakers program	<p>Senator WONG: You said you often provide staff with lectures from people who are coming through. What are the procedures associated with that? Is there a hard and fast rule? Who organises it? Who is required to tick off on it? I just want to get a sense of how these things are organised.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: One of the things we have been trying to do in the department is expose colleagues to a broad range of views about big issues. Part of that is a ramped-up speakers program. This can be initiated in different ways. Many of them are organised through the policy planning branch. They come forward with ideas. Most of the time they would be ticked off by me or by a deputy secretary. But other parts of the department who have a particular interest in an issue may also identify speakers.</p> <p>Senator WONG: How long would you say this—to use your phrase—'ramped-up' speakers program has been on foot?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: It was something I was very keen to do when I took up the position, so we have been doing more of this in the last 12 to 18 months, I would say.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Could you give me a list, on notice, of the speakers over the last 12 to 18 months?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Sure.</p>	Page 56, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15
21	DFAT	Wong	Bjorn Lomborg	<p>Senator WONG: In relation to Dr Lomborg, can I ask how his name came to be identified? You identified a number of mechanisms—was it from a staff member, from management or from another source?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I thought I mentioned that it came from the Foreign Minister's office.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I understood; you did say it was the Foreign Minister's office's idea to put him on the reference group. Yes, you have given that evidence. Was that from a staff member to you? How was that indicated?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Obviously, we were looking for names broadly and getting a list put together for consideration.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I just wondered how that was communicated to you.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I cannot recall.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Would you like to, perhaps, take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am moving on from the group. I am coming to the lecture. The secretary has explained to me about your guest speakers program, and the secretary said there is a range of ways in which those names might come forward. I am asking how his name came forward.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I cannot answer that. I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CHAIR: I think you mentioned he [Bjorn Lomborg] had previously briefed</p>	Page 56, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

				<p>AusAID, and I am wondering if you could recall when that was, Mr McDonald?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: From my recollection, that was 2012. I could be wrong, but I remember attending that presentation. He has been well-known in aid circles in Australia since I have been involved with the department.</p> <p>CHAIR: Not long before the merger.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I would say it was a calendar year before, in 2012. We integrated in 2013, but I am happy to check.</p> <p>Senator WONG: But this is a different one, yes?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We will take on notice your question, Senator Wong, which is: 'Who initiated the idea?'</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: What was the lecture about?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I would have to take that on notice.</p>			
22	DFAT	Wong	Budget paper	<p>Senator WONG: Whose decision was it to not include the official development assistance profile in Budget Paper No. 1, as it had been previously?</p> <p>Mr Wood: The responsibility for these documents is with the Department of Treasury and the Department of Finance.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Were you aware that that information was not included in the budget papers?</p> <p>Mr Wood: The first I see of this document is in the budget lock-up, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Is there any occasion on which this information has not been provided in recent years?</p> <p>Mr Wood: I do not know, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Mr Varghese, I again ask you. All you have to do is look at what was provided last year and what has been provided this year and there is a demonstrable reduction in transparency. There is no region-based ODA profile in Budget Paper No. 1 as there was last year, and there is no boxed information about the official development assistance profile.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Senator, I can't add anything further to that. I am happy to take on notice as to what the background to that was, and report back to you.</p>	Page 57, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
23	DFAT	Wong	MYEFO	<p>Senator WONG: Okay. If we track that back against last year's profile—and this is pre-the MYEFO cuts, is that correct? In the first MYEFO there was an ODA reduction, is that correct? Can you just remind me—because there has been a series of reductions in the ODA—where we have got to, and the sequence of those?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Yes, sure, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Do you want to just take me through that? And then I want to compare it against 4.2.</p> <p>Mr Wood: Sure. I will give you the headline summary: at the 2014-15 MYEFO, there was a reduction of \$3.7 billion announced across the forward estimates; and</p>	Page 58, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

				<p>in the 2014-15 budget, there was a reduction of \$7.6 billion.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are they the only reductions to date?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Those have been the only reductions in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So was there nothing in the first budget of the government?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Let me take that on notice and I will check, and come back and confirm that, Senator.</p>			
24	DFAT	Ludwig	Mr Downer – business interests	<p>Senator LUDWIG: I was just going to go through this. Mr Downer, the High Commissioner—when was he appointed?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: As I recall, he took up his position in about April or May of last year, but I can check on that.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: That is all I need. I am happy for you to take that on notice. [...]</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: When they are appointed, who does the due diligence in respect of their employment— whether or not they have commercial interests, their private declarations and the like? I am not asking for the detail itself. That would obviously be—</p> <p>Mr Varghese: The decision to make a political appointment is one taken by the Foreign Minister, in consultation with the Prime Minister. At the point that the person is employed under the Public Service Act, he or she then comes under all of the relevant provisions. As part of the discussions we would have with them, before they join the department or come under the terms of that act, we would explain to them the various requirements and, if there are conflicts of interest, the need for them to address them and remove them.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Do you know whether that was done with respect to Mr Downer, or not?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would be surprised if it was not, but I will take that on notice— unless Mr Fisher is in a position to answer. [...]</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: You would be able to recall the lobbyist firm, Bespoke Approach. How was that going to be dealt with, given that he is the owner—or at least a director—of a registered organisation, Arbury Pty Ltd?</p> <p>Mr Fisher: We will take that on notice. There were discussions about some of his various interests and his intent to remove any conflict of interest. But I will take on notice that particular question. [...]</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: The question goes to why Mr Downer's firm Arbury Pty Ltd, as a Bespoke Approach lobbyist, would be using the address of the Department of</p>	Page 64, 65, 75, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

				<p>Foreign Affairs and Trade as their address on SAI Global for their return and whether or not you are aware of it. That would be the first question.</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I do not know what Arbury Pty Ltd is. The extract that you have provided to the committee contains details of the name of the company, its status as a proprietary company limited by shares, its current and former addresses and its registered office. That is all, as far as I can construe the document, unless some pages are missing. I note that it is a three page document evidently, because one of the two pages that you have given us is described as page 3 of three, but we only have two of the three pages. One page appears to be the first page. Page 3 of three is obviously the last page. We do not have the second page. In the absence of knowing what Arbury Pty Ltd is—information which is not revealed by this document—nor having the document in its complete form, I do not know how much further we can go with this. We will take any questions you have on notice. I gather you are asserting that there is some relationship between Mr Downer and Arbury Pty Ltd, but that is not apparent on the face of the document you have produced.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Do you know whether or not that was disclosed to the department that Arbury has a shareholding in Bespoke Approach, and what arrangements you then put in place to ensure that there was no perception or a potential perception of a conflict of interest?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice, but I would point you to what I have already explained, which was that Mr Downer had indicated, and so declared, that he had no conflict of interest. But I am happy to take your question on notice.</p>			
25	DFAT	Ludwig	Mr Smith – business interests	<p>Senator LUDWIG: Just turning to Mr Ian Smith, who is also shown on Bespoke Approach; can you explain to me how the department is involved where people are and seek to be an honorary British consul in South Australia? As I understand it, Mr Smith is an honorary British consul in South Australia who is also a current director of Bespoke Approach Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: The decision to make an appointment to an honorary consul position is obviously taken by the foreign government. I would have to check whether subsequent to a nomination being made there is any particular role or requirement for the department—I will take that on notice.</p>	Page 75, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

26	DFAT	McEwen	Cleaning contracts	<p>Senator McEWEN: I would like to find out, either on notice or if you have that information with you, what the base hourly rate is currently and what it was under the current previous contract, regardless of whether they are full time or part time. [...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: Were there any unions present at that [11 February] meeting with the cleaners? [...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: How many cleaners are we talking about?</p> <p>Mr Nixon: Again, I would have to take that on notice as to the exact number of cleaners that are engaged on the site. [...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: I would just like to know how many cleaners are engaged to clean the building and how many of them were at that meeting. What time was that meeting held? Have you got those details? What time of day? [...]</p> <p>Do you know how many cleaners moved over to the new contractor, who accepted an offer of employment with the new contractor, and who were already existing cleaners under the previous contract? [...]</p> <p>Senator McEWEN: And all of those staff are employed full-time now? [...]</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: If you have a tender for cleaning, does the department then become involved with who they employ, how many they employ and at what rate of pay. [...]</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Senator, let me also take that element on notice as to whether there are any residual direct obligations on us in the event of a contracted-out service.</p>	Page 67, 68, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
27	DFAT	Rhiannon	Papua New Guinea – Bougainville	<p>Senator RHIANNON: It is in regard to the Aid Program Performance Report 2013-14. I note that DFAT outlines risks and challenges in Bougainville, but it does include the heightened contention around the reopening of the Panguna mine. [...] I was hoping that you could share with us why it was not included as destabilising and high risk for Bougainville. [...]</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We need to consider that and respond to that. Mr Sloper is not the author of that report; another part of the department is.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So you are happy to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	Page 39, BE 4 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

28	DFAT	Rhiannon	Canberra times allegations	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I have some issues to do with DFAT itself. You would probably be aware of <i>The Canberra Times</i> article last Saturday, under the title 'DFAT staffer claims abuse report stifled career'. It said, in part, at the end: "The department's latest annual report said it employed 3950 Australian staff, with 864 of those—or 22 per cent—posted overseas. Only one staffer successfully claimed from Comcare for mental stress in 2013-14."</p> <p>Is that correct? If it is not correct, what is the correct figure and how many applied but were unsuccessful?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will take that on notice, Senator, but the decision on Comcare compensation is not one taken by the department. It is taken by Comcare.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: You cannot provide any figures about the number of people who go on stress leave and those sorts of issues.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am happy to take specific questions on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: How many sexual-abuse cases has the department's conduct and ethics unit investigated over the past five years, and how many have been upheld?</p>	Page 80, 81, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
29	DFAT	Wong	MYEFO	<p>Senator WONG: Mr Wood, can I ask a question which no doubt you will have to take on notice. You might want to refer to whether or not you provided me something in February which partially answers it. I am interested—and this will be a whole-of-department issue, I suspect—in how many and the total costs of projects which were not proceeded with which had been either contracted or committed from MYEFO to date.</p> <p>Mr Wood: To clarify: that is the 2014-15 MYEFO?</p> <p>Senator WONG: No. The 2013-14 MYEFO to date. Just to be clear, as I understand it, this table tells us there were a certain number of projects contracted and a certain number committed. I am interested in how many projects, and their value, that were not proceeded with, which were contracted, and those not proceeded with, which were committed. And if that could be done by regional program.</p> <p>Mr Wood: Just to be clear: for the last 18 months?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Correct. Can I go to the forward estimates table that you provided. Perhaps you can explain to me a couple of things. There are a number of regional programs where the committed expenses in some years over the forwards already appear to exceed the total activity approval: Vanuatu, which may be explicable for the reasons you have explained, in 2016-17; Pacific regional, and that may be because of the Vanuatu humanitarian aid; Vietnam in 2016-17—\$52 million versus \$49 million; Burma in 2017-18 and also 2018-19; Bangladesh in</p>	Page 86, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

				<p>2015-16 and in 2017-18; Sri Lanka in 2017-18. Can you explain that to me?</p> <p>Mr Wood: In general, it mainly relates to some anomalies in terms of the signing of the contracts or a timing issue. This is a live report, so there may be a timing issue. But I am certainly happy to go back and clarify those particular ones that you have highlighted.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That is, why we would have committed more than we have approved.</p> <p>Mr Wood: Correct.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You want to take that on notice. If I wanted to find out, across the forward estimates, total activity approval, committed expenses and how that relates to what is budgeted, what is the best way of me doing that?</p> <p>Mr Wood: For the 2015-16 year—</p> <p>Senator WONG: It is going back to this table for everything else?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Yes. We would provide that to you at a high level. The government agrees country allocations each year through the budget process and announces those on budget night.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What could you give me without precluding that budget decision?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I think we will have to take that on notice and see what we can give. Mr Wood is right. The allocations are done each year. We have to cost the forward estimates, the bottom line, but we will see what we can provide.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What would the other column be.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I understand what you want.</p>			
30	DFAT	Wong	<p><b>PNG – Bougainville – Establishment of DFAT post in Buka</b></p>	<p>RHIANNON: I want to ask about the proposal for the diplomatic post in Bougainville. All up, I understood it was a bit over \$98 million allocated for the new posts. Of that amount, how much has been earmarked for this new one on Bougainville.</p> <p>Mr Wood: We would need to take on notice the precise breakdown and details. As you said, there was \$98.3 million provided in the budget to open the five posts: Buka, Doha, Makassar, Phuket and Ulaanbaatar. The funding is split between operating and capital and it is split across financial years.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So you will be able to supply that on notice and give us a breakdown?</p> <p>Mr Wood: We will confirm the allocations that we have.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We were asked early in the day what the budget for Buka would be, and we said that we would take that on notice because we had the aggregate number for new posts but not the disaggregated number readily available.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Is that what she was asking for?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I think Senator Rhiannon was asking about Manus and where Manus</p>	<p><b>Page 44, 87, 88, 89, BE 3 Jun</b></p>	<p>17/07/15</p>	<p>13/08/15</p>



			<p>fitted into the PNG program.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are you not able to give us the—I am just trying to find the budget measure. It is unusual. Usually we do posts separately in budget measures, as in the Baghdad embassy here, but you have aggregated them. Are you not able to tell me how much of the \$10.7, \$16.3, \$17.8 and \$16.9 is Buka?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We should be able to tell you, but we cannot right at the moment.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Tomorrow?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will certainly try to get that to you.</p> <p>Senator WONG: We are back tomorrow, aren't we?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We have made working assumptions about staff numbers and property costs and the other things that go into it. In the case of Buka, we are in discussions with the government of PNG about precisely what we will do in Buka. We cannot do anything without their consent, so it is a slightly different situation.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am happy to talk about that. I would love to have the working assumptions, but I actually asked, in a prior question, what is your budget allocation for Buka?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: You have done working assumptions around staff and so forth. Are you able to take on notice that I am requesting those?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was the budget cabinet, if there was more than one, which resolved this particular issue?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to check the date.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was that in the week prior to the budget or the week of the budget?</p> <p>Mr Wood: I do not know, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was the ERC decision which included this in the budget?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I would ask for all those dates.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Minister Pato is reported as describing the plan is outrageous and has summoned the High Commissioner to explain. Has that meeting occurred?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: He asked our High Commission to come to a meeting. The meeting was attended by the Deputy High Commissioner in the absence of the High Commissioner at another function.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was that?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice unless there is someone present who has the information.</p>			
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				<p>[...]  Mr Sloper: I do not have that particular meeting on the chronology but I expect it is the day after Mr O'Neill was here in Sydney at the Lowy Institute. I will confirm that and come back to you very shortly.  Senator WONG: Which was a couple of days after the budget.  Mr Sloper: It was on 13 May.  Senator WONG: The budget was on the 12th this year, is that right?  Mr Sloper: That is right.  Senator WONG: So Mr O'Neill was there on the 13th, his comments were reported on the 14th and are you saying that the Deputy High Commissioner had a meeting on that day?  Mr Sloper: On the 14th, I think so.  Senator WONG: In PNG?  Mr Sloper: In PNG, in Port Moresby.  [...]  Senator WONG: Can I seek a copy of the letter that the Foreign Minister wrote to Prime Minister O'Neill.  Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice.  Senator WONG: I am happy for you to do that.</p>			
31	DFAT	Wong	Speechwriting services	<p>Senator WONG: I still have not had an answer, Mr Roach, about what process was followed in relation to this procurement that renders the procurement process compliant with the CPRs.  [...]  Senator Brandis: And it may be that the Commonwealth Procurement Rules did not apply in this particular case.  Senator WONG: How is that possible? How can they not apply?  Senator Brandis: Because, under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, there are certain exceptions, and you should know that, as a former finance minister.  Senator WONG: Yes, because we wrote them, but that means they apply but there is an exception.  Senator Brandis: In order to avoid wasting the time of the committee pursuing what may be a false issue, we will take the question on notice.  Senator WONG: There is an official at the table. Are you able to assist on this issue?  Senator Brandis: We will take the question on notice.  [...]  Senator WONG: So one of your colleagues receives the invoice, contacts the office et cetera. Was a file note or other record taken of that conversation?</p>	Page 92, BE 3 Jun	23/09/15	15/10/15

			<p>Mr Roach: I understand that there may have been exchanges of emails.  Senator WONG: Can I on notice have copies of the invoices and copies of all documentation associated with the conversations you have just given evidence about?  Mr Roach: I am happy to take that on notice.  [...]  Mr Roach: Under the contract that I am aware of, Senator, the payment was for \$22,500 plus GST, which comes to a total of \$24, 750.  Senator WONG: Okay; well, if someone can just explain that to me. If this is the contract, or even if it is not, this contract was not published on AusTender within 42 days of entering the contract, which is a breach of the CPRs. Can someone explain to me why that delay occurred? The contract start date was 12 March 2014 and publication was 11 June.  Mr Roach: We will take that on notice.  [...]  Ms Bergmann: The financial approvals also noted that in the delegate's view the procurement represented value for money.  Senator WONG: Okay. Can I have a copy of those documents?  Mr Roach: We will take that on notice.  [...]  Mr Roach: It was a limited tender. I made a judgement about the value for money on the basis of working and making contract and other financial decisions of a comparable nature.  Senator WONG: And what were they?  Mr Roach: We have previously employed people outside the APS to do similar services on behalf of ministers. That is one guide. As I was referring to a moment ago, getting speakers who are highly credentialed to speak to the SES group is another. There are other contracts that we have signed.  Senator WONG: Are they noted in your value-for-money note?  Mr Roach: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have it in front of me.  Senator WONG: Are you able to provide on notice to me some examples of the sorts of arrangements to which you have just referred?  Mr Roach: I will take that on notice.</p>	<p><b>Page 63,  BE 4 Jun</b></p> <p><b>Page 63,  BE 4 Jun</b></p> <p><b>Page 64,  BE 4 Jun</b></p>		
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				<p>Senator DASTYARI: Since February—in the past four months. I assume this may have been asked last night, but was a complete list provided last night of all the minister's travel for the past six months?</p> <p>Mr Roach: That was raised simply as a question on notice. It was asked for us to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: So that was not provided last night?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: It can be provided and it will be provided.</p>	<b>Page 9, BE 4 Jun</b>		
<b>34</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Diplomatic footprint</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: If I was to ask you for a chart of numbers of overseas positions between 2005 and 2015 and a five-year projection to 2020, is that the work that you are referring to, the review?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We can certainly take on notice what has been the case in the past up until now. I think anything looking out over the next five years would be speculative.</p>	<b>Page 99, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>HOM/HOP appointments and vacancies</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: On appointments already made, which individuals have been appointed since last estimates and the table provided in question on notice 141?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: This is in relation to head of mission appointments?</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Could you please provide an updated list of posts becoming vacant in 2015, if there are changes to the one provided in question on notice 25.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Yes, I will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Is the Accra High Commission a post that is becoming vacant?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to check. I do not have in my head the due date for a changeover in Accra. Mr Fisher may have some more information.</p> <p>Mr Fisher: I think I had better take that particular one on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: In Honiara, the RAMSI special coordinator?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to check on that.</p> <p>Mr Fisher: I think towards the end of the year. We would have to check on that one.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: The Nicosia High Commissioner? I may have</p>	<b>Page 99, 100, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

				<p>mispronounced that. Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice.</p>			
36	DFAT	Gallacher	<b>Ideas Challenge</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Is it possible to get a look at the 400 ideas, and what you are actually promoting or voting on? Mr Varghese: Can I take that on notice? Senator GALLACHER: Absolutely.</p>	<b>Page 102, BE 3 Jun</b>	23/09/15	15/10/15
37	DFAT	McEwen	<b>Aid funding for nutrition</b>	<p>Senator McEWEN: Can you advise on the estimated funding for specific nutrition measures in the current financial year? Mr McDonald: I think, and Mr Exell can correct me if I am wrong, we cannot determine the actual expenditure until the end of the financial year. That is because of the way the programs work; we have to gather it all in from all of our country programs and our multilateral programs and the like to come up the split. I think that is correct. Mr Exell: Yes. Senator McEWEN: But at the end of the financial year, you could provide the amount of funding. Is that able to be teased out into the country and/or program specific amounts once you have received it? Mr Exell: I would imagine we would be able to do that. There is an internationally agreed methodology to measure nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive investments, because there are two types of support for those activities. We should be able to get those at a country level as well. Senator McEWEN: You have taken that on notice then for— Mr Exell: Following the end of the financial year.</p>	<b>Page 106, BE 3 Jun</b>	23/09/15	15/10/15

<b>38</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>McEwen</b>	<b>Aid funding for early childhood education</b>	<p>Senator McEWEN: In regard to early childhood education, can the department advise how much of Australia's estimated \$1.1 billion in support for education in the current financial year is allocated to early childhood education?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I think we would have to take the specific components on notice.</p>	<b>Page 106, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>McEwen</b>	<b>Global Partnership for Education</b>	<p>Senator McEWEN: What is that figure as a proportion of the total ODA budget in 2015-16? What is the proportion percentage-wise of funding going to education in the total ODA budget for 2015-16?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We will not know that yet. We have to go through and agree the priorities with the partner countries. Once we have identified those priorities, we will be able to aggregate that up and report the sectoral split of our expenditure for 2015-16. We are happy to take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 107, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Did the department consult with foreign governments such as the US or Japan on joining the AIIB prior to 26 March 2015?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Did the Prime Minister have consultations with President Obama or Prime Minister Abe in relation to that? And were you involved in those conversations?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would need to take that on notice, Senator, whether there were discussions at head of government and head of state level.</p>	<b>Page 108, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Ludlam</b>	<b>Palestinian territories – aid funding</b>	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you just confirm for me that the 2015-16 budget cut aid to the Palestinian territories from \$34.2 million to \$20.5 million—is that accurate?</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: Yes, that is right.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: What components of Australia's contribution to that part of the world did that hit, in particular?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I do not know if you were here earlier, but in relation to the 2015-16 budget allocations, which were announced the best part of three weeks ago, we are now going through discussions with our partner governments on the priorities for 2015-16. When they are complete we will be able to provide that information to you. If you do not mind, we will take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 109, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

42	DFAT	Ludlam	<b>Palestinian territories – support for reconstruction</b>	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I also understand that Australia committed—I do not know whether it was an additional; you may be able to clarify that for me—\$5 million to assist with the rebuilding of Gaza, which was very, very badly damaged last year. Did that \$5 million come from a humanitarian fund or a separate appropriation, or was that out of our regular aid contribution? [...] Has that aid money been able to reach Gaza?</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: I would have to take the details on notice, but the money went to UNRWA, which has a fund which is organising assistance for people who were affected by the conflict last year. Whether they have dispersed the money at this stage or not, I do not know. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Sure. Has Australia made any representations specifically to either Israel or Egypt to allow reconstruction materials to more easily enter those territories?</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Is that something that you could check for us?</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: I could check, sure. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Has the Australian Foreign Minister or any other official made any representations to the effect that the blockade be lifted?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: You have given us some general undertakings around security checks for materials entering the Palestinian territories and you have said that you are not aware of any specific issues. I find that really difficult to believe, so I ask you to take on notice to find out from our partners, whether it be UNWRA, World Vision, APHEDA or any of the other groups that we have relevant linkages with, whether they are reporting—if you are able to actively check for us—</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: Sure.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Any difficulties in delivering aid to a part of the world that desperately needs it.</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: Will do.</p>	<b>Page 109, 110, BE 3 Jun</b>	17/07/15	13/08/15
43	DFAT	Xenophon	<b>Palestinian territories – legal advice</b>	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Mr Varghese, I am going to follow up on the issues that I asked about the fourth Geneva convention, and Australia's view as to the applicability of the fourth Geneva convention in respect of the occupied territories in Palestine and East Jerusalem. I seek leave, Chair, to table a document I have obtained pursuant to the Archives Act, which is a Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office legal opinion dated 5 October 1971, in relation to this issue. It is a declassified document.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do the minister and the secretary have a copy of that? Senator</p>	<b>Page 113, 116, BE 3 Jun</b>	17/07/15	13/08/15



			<p>XENOPHON: No; but I have a couple of copies here.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Brandis: This is a brief prepared by the Commonwealth &amp; Foreign Office.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Yes, it is. Senator Brandis: On 5 October 1971.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Brandis: And—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: If I could take you to annexure B—and can I assure the committee, and assure you, Attorney, that it is a declassified document that was obtained pursuant to our Archives Act.</p> <p>Senator Brandis: Yes.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: If I could take you to annexure B, headed 'the applicability to the occupied territories of the fourth Geneva convention relative to the treatment of civilian persons in time of war'. Before I go to the specific passage that I wish to refer to, my understanding from the declassified documents is that this was a document that the Australian government sought, in forming its own opinion as to the applicability of the fourth Geneva convention to the occupied territories and to East Jerusalem. Can you confirm that, Mr Varghese— whether it was relied on?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Well, no I can't Senator. You are referring to a document that goes back to 1971. I am not sure—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: That doesn't mean it is not a good one!</p> <p>Mr Varghese: No; I am not casting any judgements on the merits of the document! I am not sure when we would have drawn on it, if we have drawn on it, in the period between 1971 and now. So no; the short answer is I cannot.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Could you take on notice whether the Australian government did draw on that document in reaching its own conclusions as to its own legal advice as to whether the fourth Geneva convention applied to the occupied territories?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Attorney, does the Australian government have a view as to whether the fourth Geneva convention applies to the Occupied Territories?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I will ask the Foreign Minister about that.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: If you could take that on notice, I would be satisfied with that. If so, what is that view?</p>			
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44	DFAT	Xenophon	Palestinian territories – students	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Has the department received any reports of difficulties of Palestinians who have obtained scholarships in Australian universities in leaving Palestine to study here, including their spouse or family members who have been allowed to accompany them as part of the scholarship? If you could take that on notice I would be very grateful.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am happy to take it on notice. Are you referring to Australian government scholarships?</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: I am referring to scholarships for Australian universities, so you could include both Australian government scholarships and any other scholarships offered by Australian universities.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	Page 116, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
45	DFAT	Ludlam	Kurdistan – PKK listing as terrorist organisation	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you tell us what involvement the department has, if any, in the review of the PKK's listing as a terrorist organisation in Australia and its status within this country? I understand that review process is due in August of this year and it is probably ASIO that has direct carriage of it but I want to know whether the department has any visibility of that review process?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: As time is reasonably short, could you just take on notice to provide the process that the department would follow in gathering information? You do not have to answer this directly now but, for example, whether you would speak to local representatives of the Kurdish community; or what kind of open-source, if you like, resources you would give regard to, if you were assessing a listing or a delisting. I will leave it there.</p>	Page 111, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
46	DFAT	Xenophon	Timor Sea legal dispute	<p>Senator XENOPHON: In relation to the answer that the Attorney gave earlier in respect of the settlement reached between the government of East Timor and the Australian government, which related to a specific dispute in relation to the ICJ—the Attorney is here; that is terrific—is it not the case that in terms of the arbitration panel established under the Treaty on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea that matter is still proceeding? That is correct, is it not?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I am not going to discuss actual potential proceedings involving Australia's interests in this forum, so we will take that question on notice.</p>	Page 115, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15
47	DFAT	Rhiannon	Operations – DFAT involvement in Operation Paladin and Operation Mazurka	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you set out what is DFAT's involvement with Operation Paladin and Operation Mazurka please?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will see whether one of my colleagues has details. If not, I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: On notice?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will take it on notice.</p>	Page 117, BE 3 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

<b>48</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Counter-narcotics</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: What are the formalised human rights safeguards applied to ensure funds allocated to overseas counternarcotics efforts do not enable human rights abuses?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: That is a matter for the Attorney-General's estimates; these are the DFAT estimates. Nevertheless, I will take the question on notice.</p>	<b>Page 117, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Counter-narcotics</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Is the government planning to make or has it already made a contribution to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's forthcoming country program in Pakistan?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice, unless someone is present who has an answer to it.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I was after the specific programs receiving allocations of the funding too, and also a similar one for Iran. So are there any plans to make or has a contribution been made to UNODC's forthcoming country program in Iran?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: And the same thing for any specific programs.</p>	<b>Page 118, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>PNG – Bougainville funding allocation</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Moving on to Bougainville, I understand the allocation in 2015-16 is \$50 million. Could you provide a breakdown of how that money will be allocated?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: Are you asking for the breakdown of money for this current financial year or for the next financial year?</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: For 2015-16—so current please. I understand it is \$50 million.</p> <p>Mr Sloper: Next year will be \$50 million.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Next year is it?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: That is the 2015-16 year, which is what I think you said. I can talk about the broad areas; I cannot give you specific figures. The program is targeted at improving services in health, education, transport, infrastructure, law and justice. As you mentioned, it will rise from \$40.7 million this year to \$50 million next year.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Can you provide any breakdown? If you cannot do it for those sectors, can you give some information on the details of what will be going to non-government organisations and bilateral program—</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I will need to take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 118, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

<b>51</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Ministerial travel – cancelled trips</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Can I just add an addition to the questions on notice about ministerial trips: could we have the details of any cancelled trips? We have asked a whole series of questions for the ministerial travel, so could you just include trips that have been cancelled?</p> <p>Mr Roach: We will take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 119, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Cambodia</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: If we could go to Cambodia and just follow up question on notice 146: could we please be updated on Minister Bishop's most recent meetings with senior Cambodian ministers; and an update on negotiations with Cambodia and the first tranche of the \$40 million development assistance package.</p> <p>Mr Chittick: Which time frame are you particularly interested in, Senator?</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: We are following up from additional estimates: the question on notice was 146, so information post that answer.</p> <p>Mr Chittick: Sorry, I do not have any information with me on Ms Bishop's discussions with her counterpart. She has had discussions with a number of visiting Cambodian ministers, including the interior minister, but I would have to take the details of those meetings on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Are we aware of the specific programs that will be funded?</p> <p>Mr Chittick: The government's commitment in September last year to provide \$40 million over four years in additional funding is focused in three areas—one is in agricultural production, particularly in rice milling; another one in de-mining; and the third one in support for electoral reform. All three of those programs are in effect scaling up of programs that existed previously. The \$10 million that will be additional to the previous allocation for Cambodia will fund those over the course of the next year.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Are we able to be made aware of who the program partners are? I think you said rice milling?</p> <p>Mr Chittick: I would have to take the specific details of that on notice, but they would be the existing program partners that we have in Cambodia.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Just for my education, rice milling—is that a commercial or a government operation?</p> <p>Mr Chittick: It is support for improvements in rice milling in Cambodia to improve the value added in the milling process. It is support for the sector to improve its efficiency.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Is ACIAR in there somewhere?</p> <p>Mr Chittick: No, ACIAR is not involved, as I understand it, with those particular</p>	<b>Page 119, 120, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				programs, but I am happy to take on notice the specific program partners.			
53	DFAT		<b>Trade Disputes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a status update (since the prior update provided from Additional Estimates) on the various WTO disputes to which Australia is a party.</li> <li>• Please provide a status update (since the prior update provided at Additional Estimates) on international arbitrations to which Australia is a party.</li> </ul>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
54	DFAT	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Great Barrier Reef</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Thank you. It has been reported that Minister Bishop discussed the protection of the Great Barrier Reef with officials whilst in Lima—is that correct? And with whom did she discuss the Barrier Reef?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice. I would be not at all surprised if she did. That, as you know, is a very important objective of ours, and our ministers. Both the Foreign Minister and the trade and investment minister tend to use whatever bilateral meetings they have with relevant counterparts to press our interest in ensuring that the Great Barrier Reef is not listed as endangered. Since that was a multilateral meeting, where our Foreign Minister would have had a series of counterpart meetings, I assume that there would have been a number of such opportunities.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: You have mentioned Minister Robb. Was he part of those conversations? Were they meeting together?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take on notice to what extent their meetings were joint meetings. Normally, in those sorts of cases, they would tend to have separate meetings.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I suppose the question is whether there were any joint meetings.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 120, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

55	DFAT	Gallacher	<b>PNG – TB diagnosis</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: My questions go to whether Port Moresby is budgeted to do the samples which are currently being sent to the Queensland reference laboratory whilst the CPHL remains unable to perform the diagnosis needed. It is a detailed question whether you are funding the operation in Port Moresby or you are using the Queensland facility.</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I will need take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: If the answer is no, could you further examine when it will become a fully functional, accredited lab for multidrug-resistant TB diagnosis.</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I can assure you that we are providing funding to strengthen laboratories in Port Moresby. But whether that is now taking over the operations of the labs in Queensland, I cannot tell you now. We will take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 122, 123, BE 3 Jun</b>	17/07/15	13/08/15
56	DFAT	Gallacher	<b>Ministerial travel</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Will there be any bipartisan trips this year?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take on notice whether anything is being planned by either of our ministers.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CHAIR: It would be interesting to have a record going back perhaps for four or five years, just to know on what occasions ministers and shadow ministers from either side, regardless of who has been in government, have actually gone so we can have an understanding as to whether they are frequent or infrequent. Is that possible?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I can take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 123, BE 3 Jun</b>	23/09/15	15/10/15
57	DFAT	Gallacher	<b>Media – social media</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Do we have a list available on the DFAT website of social media accounts managed by DFAT in Australian embassies?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Does this initiative have a budget? Can you point us to a yearly expenditure?</p> <p>Mr Tranter: I will get that to you on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Tranter: There is guidance, and we also follow the Australian Public Service guidance on social media use by officials.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Perhaps you could just give us the guidelines.</p> <p>Mr Tranter: We would be happy to do that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 126, BE 3 Jun</b>	17/07/15	13/08/15

<b>58</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>New Colombo Plan</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: I want to put a couple of things on notice in respect of the Colombo Plan. Could we have the statistics of who applied? Are statistics kept? Can I ask that in respect of that?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Yes, we have a lot of statistics on the Colombo Plan. I am sure Kate Duff will be able to take you through them.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I would probably try to avoid the necessity of getting the answer; rather, I would just pose the question and perhaps get a complete document at a later date. We would like your statistics on the Colombo Plan, including students who have required consular assistance including, if so, the reason why and where. In relation to complaints and feedback, how many complaints have been received and for what reason, and how many complaints escalated to the Commonwealth Ombudsman? We would like the success story, but we would like to know if there is any detail around these issues. I would be very happy if those were taken on notice. Finally, who is conducting the assessments against the selection criteria? Are statistics kept regarding the assessments? Please provide statistics if possible. It is just an update on success or issues with the Colombo Plan.</p>	<b>Page 128, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Review of consular services</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: How much did the review cost in total?</p> <p>Mr Philp: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 129, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Passport services</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: When did the ERC consult DFAT on the passport fee setting structure?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I would have to take the date on notice. We are happy to do that.</p>	<b>Page 129, BE 3 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

<b>61</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Back</b>	<b>Global Polio Eradication Initiative</b>	<p>CHAIR: Can you tell me Australia's contribution at our level? What is the total amount annually and which other countries, organisations, non-government organisations or philanthropic organisations contribute toward the eradication program please?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We might need to take that on notice, Chair. We certainly know what our contribution is over the next five years but it would be worth looking at other contributions. I gave the example of Garvan which also contributes to that. I would appreciate taking that on notice.</p>	<b>Page 13, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>62</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>McGrath</b>	<b>Disaster risk reduction – Typhoon Haiyan</b>	<p>Senator McGRATH: In relation to Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines, what stores by type and quantity were transported by air; what locations were the stores collected from; what financial costs were incurred by the Australian government in moving stores by road to where they could be then loaded onto aircraft and-or ships for movement to the Philippines; and, finally, what financial costs were incurred by the Australian government in moving stores by air and-or sea to the Philippines?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I might take on notice the details of those questions in terms of Typhoon Haiyan, but one thing I can comment on is in terms of the costs of transporting them. Obviously, though there is a cost more broadly with the utilisation of ADF assets there is not a direct cost to the department in terms of the air cost. As I also said, most of the stores that would have been used in Typhoon Haiyan were already available at Amberley or Richmond and hence would have been pre-palletted to go on to a flight. But I will take that question on notice and give you the detail that you have requested.</p>	<b>Page 15, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Dastyari</b>	<b>Ministerial travel – Foreign Minister</b>	<p>Senator DASTYARI: The register of member's interests for Ms Bishop has accommodation and meal expenses, Ministry for Foreign Affairs—UAE—which I assume is referring to the United Arab Emirates—Government, 25 to 27 January. The only reason I am raising it is that it is the only time anything of its kind appears on the register. I do not know if it is just that she took a private trip at the end of a—</p> <p>Mr Varghese: We will take that on notice. I would just make one observation. It is not necessarily in relation to that particular incident or particular travel, but it is sometimes the case that a host government would meet the accommodation costs of a visiting minister, but let me take that on notice and establish whether that is the case.</p>	<b>Page 18, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>



<b>64</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Fawcett</b>	<b>Kurdistan – Support to displaced civilians in Kurdish regional government area</b>	<p>Senator FAWCETT: Australia participated some months ago in helping to transport arms to the Kurds. They, according to media reports, appear to have been one of the most effective military forces there in terms of liberating, particularly, northern parts of Iraq and Syria. Do you have any update on whether we have any continuing involvement, and also what is occurring with the displaced populations, particularly the? Are we monitoring at all whether they are being assisted to go back and reclaim their homes, or are there ongoing issues in terms of booby-trapping and safety of places for them to return to live?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: In relation to the question about reclaiming their homes, I would have to take that on notice and get an update on that.</p>	<b>Page 21, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Aid to South Sudan</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: With regard to the assistance provided to South Sudan, could you also detail what amount of assistance is given to the extractives sector in that country?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: With regard to the questions you are taking on notice about the budget, could you provide an overall figure for South Sudan, and within that overall figure a breakdown of the aid that is going to humanitarian causes, to the extractive industries and to NGOs so that we can get a clearer overview of how that money is divided up?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: As I said earlier, we will take that on notice. We do not provide money to extractive industries. We provide money to countries within Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I have one that I understand comes from your web site: assistance is given to regulate and manage the extractive sector, to give business increased certainty, while improving mining revenue, management and overall governance.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: That is what we are taking on notice in terms of the breakdown, unless Mr Innes-Brown has that handy. But that is the breakdown I think you were looking for in terms of our expenditure.</p>	<b>Page 25, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Aid for mining in Afghanistan</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you provide an update about any assistance from the overseas development program for mining work in Afghanistan?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I do not have that with me.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: That is what you will take on notice?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Yes, I will take it on notice and we will provide you with information on our expenditure in relation to extractives in the program, across the board.</p>	<b>Page 25, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

<b>67</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Ebola treatment centre – medical insurance</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Was the Aspen Medical insurance coverage for the Ebola treatment centre insured by the Commonwealth?</p> <p>Mr Exell: Insurance for staff was primarily covered by Aspen itself—yes. I will have to take on notice the issue of specific details. There was some need for the Commonwealth to provide some additional support. I will take the specifics on notice.</p>	<b>Page 26, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Aid to Pakistan</b>	<p>Senator GALLACHER: So perhaps take on notice the program partners, purposes and performance measures in place for the \$19 million aid package. We would appreciate having a look at that.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We would be pleased to do that. The other one I should have mentioned—I think it is applicable to what you said—is water management within Pakistan. You know they have a continual series of floods and the like. So that is the other area we are focusing on: helping them with capacity around managing that on an ongoing basis.</p>	<b>Page 29, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>69</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Back</b>	<b>Thailand’s aid program</b>	<p>CHAIR: Perhaps you can take on notice whether Thailand is now a donor to the aid program and, if so, the extent to which it is and when that started.</p>	<b>Page 32, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Gallacher</b>	<b>Private sector engagement – women and girls</b>	<p>CHAIR: Can you tell me what the Australian government is doing and how is the Australia government engaging, if at all, with the private sector to further empower women and girls, especially in the areas of our geographic influence?</p> <p>Ms Smith: I cannot speak to exactly what we are doing with the private sector in our country programs. I think we would have to take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p>	<b>Page 37, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>71</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Dastyari</b>	<b>South China Sea – volume of trade</b>	<p>Mr Chittick: Yes. These are necessarily rough estimates. There is no one single way to get from point A to point B in terms of our exports and imports, but we estimate that around 60 per cent of our exports and almost 40 per cent of our imports pass through the South China Sea.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: I know this probably a too difficult thing. Do you have a dollar value on that?</p> <p>Mr Chittick: No, I do not.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Okay. I am sure that I can, on Google, multiply that by</p>	<b>Page 54, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				<p>our outgoing and incoming trade. I just want to check on that figure. I have read that figure in the <i>Brisbane Times</i>. It is a widely quoted figure, according to the fantastic brief I have here from the Parliamentary Library on this issue. It was cited by an interview with foreign minister Bob Carr in 2012. That is the first time I could find that 60 per cent figure reported anywhere. Where is that figure from?</p> <p>Mr Chittick: I think we have been using figures similar to this for some time. I do not know the original provenance of that statistical analysis on that but I have seen figures like those for a number of years now in various briefs.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: The point I was making, and this is the bit that, I guess, is interesting me—and if you could please take it on notice, Mr Chittick—that is a figure that has been used by foreign ministers. I assume that is a figure—although you cannot confirm this— that appeared in briefings on this issue to foreign ministers. I was just wondering where the source of that it is. I have tried to track down the source of that figure myself from what is publicly available information.</p> <p>Mr Chittick: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>			
72	DFAT	Back	<b>Pakistan – economic empowerment of women</b>	<p>CHAIR: I want to ask about the government's support for women's economic empowerment in Pakistan, but I will do that after lunch.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CHAIR: Can someone respond to my question earlier, and that is the Australian government supporting women's economic empowerment in Pakistan, please, in three minutes—unless it takes longer. We will resume after afternoon tea. I just want to know specifically what is happening.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Senator, I will try and assist you, but this is where the division head was ill; you might recall from yesterday. So I might have to take it on notice. I do not have that detail.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is no problem.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I have got a little bit of information on Pakistan but probably not to the extent that you want.</p> <p>CHAIR: On notice?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I think that might be more efficient.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I have some information here that might be useful. We are providing \$7.5 million to a reduce violence against women and girls in Pakistan program. It is a four-year program from 2013-2017.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is \$7.5 million over the four years?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: Over four years. That focuses particularly on services for women and children affected by violence. It includes shelters and medical and legal services; engagement with men, women, youth, religious and community leaders</p>	<b>Page 39; 60, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				<p>to challenge attitudes and behaviours; and strengthening the capacity of the police and the judiciary to enable women to access legal support without stigma or fear. I mentioned earlier the cross-cutting nature of our women empowerment support, but there is a skills training program of \$200,000 as well from 2015-2018. It will support 5,000 women and girls in remote areas to develop skills suitable for the local job market. It is trying to empower women.</p> <p>CHAIR: Can you tell us who the \$7.5 million is being channelled through to achieve these goals?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I will have to take that on notice. I am looking a little lacking in detail on this, which I apologise for.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is fine; you were taking the whole question on notice earlier.</p>			
73	DFAT	Wong	<b>Budget – Indexation of ODA by CPI</b>	<p>Senator WONG: Why don't you take it on notice: does the indexation of ODA by CPI lead to a reduction in the percentage of GNI Australia will provide in ODA? [...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: First—although I think the Secretary has taken this on notice—is it the case that, mathematically, as long as wages grow higher than income, indexing ODA to CPI will mean we will have a lower percentage of GNI as our ODA contribution, going forward?</p> <p>Mr Wood: As we have said, the Secretary will take that on notice. [...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: The second is: with the effect of that indexation change on Australia's ODA contribution— bearing in mind GNI is how these matters are referenced in the international fora, as per my colleague Senator McEwen's questions to your colleague—did the department provide any advice?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Not that I am aware, no. It is integral that the increase in CPI was part of the government's policy.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I have put one question on notice. [...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: I also want to know if there was any advice provided by DFAT to the minister about the effect of the CPI indexation change on Australia's ODA contributions going forward. If so, when?</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Sure.</p>	<b>Page 61, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

74	DFAT	Wong	<b>Bilateral agreements and MoUs under consideration</b>	<p>Senator WONG: Can you just tell me, other than the trade agreements—because I will ask trade those—do we have other bilateral agreements or MoUs actively under consideration?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. Mr French, you can take on notice a list of the bilateral agreement MOUs which are currently under discussion, can you?</p> <p>Dr French: Yes.</p>	<b>Page 61, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
75	DFAT	Wong	<b>Counter-terrorism – Man Haron Monis' letter to Attorney General – evidence of Ms Jones</b>	<p>Senator WONG: This might be a question for the Attorney. I understand the foreign minister has just given a personal statement in the House. I wonder if you are aware of that.</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I think I know what you are referring to.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am just wondering if you could advise us—because I understand that it relates to evidence given by one of your departmental secretaries; this is in your portfolio, obviously, not in your representing—the circumstances by which the incorrect evidence was ascertained?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I have read—in draft, at least—the statement that the foreign minister made, and that statement, or at least the draft of it I read earlier in the afternoon, is a full account of the circumstances, to which I have nothing to add.</p> <p>Senator WONG: This was last week. When did you become aware that Ms Jones's evidence was incorrect?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I would have to check, but in the last couple of days. I should point out—you may or not be aware of this—that Ms Bishop only returned to Australia from overseas duties this morning.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Could you take on notice—I appreciate we will not have the officers here—when you first became aware that the evidence was incorrect, what action was taken by you or the department as a result of ascertaining that and when the draft statement was provided to you?</p> <p>Senator Brandis: I will take those questions on notice.</p>	<b>Page 64, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
76	DFAT	McGrath	<b>Aid program support to democratic institutions and fundamental freedoms</b>	<p>Senator McGRATH: I want to know what policies and programs there are to actively promote and support democratic institutions and the fundamental freedoms of individual liberty, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of worship that are in our overseas aid programs.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Dr Strahan: The Commonwealth does a lot of work on monitoring elections, working with member states to create laws and general democracy-building work. In fact, the Commonwealth is defined by its democratic values. So the kind of money which we deliver under the aid program to the Commonwealth we like to</p>	<b>Page 65, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

				<p>channel into that kind of democracy-building, election-monitoring, law-making work.</p> <p>Senator McGRATH: Are you able to provide on notice a list of the programs?</p> <p>Dr Strahan: Sure.</p> <p>Senator McGRATH: What sort of funding are we talking about here?</p> <p>Dr Strahan: It is relatively modest. We provide \$12 million in this financial year to the Commonwealth, and about a third of that probably goes into this kind of work, but I would have to give you more precise numbers on notice.</p> <p>Senator McGRATH: So there is nothing specific from Australia outside the Commonwealth? There are no Australian-only programs that—</p> <p>Dr Strahan: I cannot speak beyond the Commonwealth. I will offer you something helpful about the Commonwealth, but I am not knowledgeable enough about other fields.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We do focus on government and the like across the programs. If we took it on notice, we might be able to do that.</p> <p>Senator McGRATH: If you take it on notice, that is fine.</p>			
77	DFAT	Rhiannon	PNG – Aid to PNG	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I would like to move on to Papua New Guinea. In 2015, DFAT published the assessment “A new direction for Australian aid in PNG: refocusing Australian aid to help unlock PNG’s economic potential.”</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Could you identify the particular areas that would come under 'phased reductions to basic service delivery'?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I will need to take that on notice for the specifics. I would note that we are not moving away from the education and health sectors; what we are doing is moving away from providing some of those services directly ourselves and to support the PNG systems to mobilise their own resources to deliver in those sectors. I can take those specifics on notice.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: The way you phrased your response may suggest that the level of involvement in the education and health sector is reduced. Is that the case?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I will ask you to take it on notice so that we get it all together—the 2013-14 and the 2014-15.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So you now fund the PNG government with it earmarked that they must fund health programs with that money?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I would like to take that on notice in terms of specifics, because how we deliver it within the health sector varies in different locations.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I am trying to understand the difference and if it has</p>	Page 42, BE 4 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

				<p>decreased in quantity. I understood that you did that a great deal at any rate. Huge amounts of money go to the PNG government; it always has, hasn't it?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: According to the sector, it varies. I think it would be best if I came back to you on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I think it would be useful also to help understanding in this area if you could provide the breakdown here. Of the money going into PNG and the money going into Bougainville, what is going directly to the government and the government determines how it is going to be used?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: We provided a table in response to question 58 on 26 February at last additional estimates. We could do an updated table for you if you would like.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: That would be very useful.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: [...] what is being done to ensure that land confiscations that often go with infrastructure projects preferably do not occur, or how do you plan to manage those?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Sloper: In terms of our aid programs, we have a range of safeguards put in place. I can take on notice and provide you with a copy of some of those guidelines.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I was particularly interested in this. If there are evictions with infrastructure projects, will the government ensure they meet the UN basic principles and guidelines on the development based evictions and displacement policy that they have?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I do not have the guidelines here with me, but I can take that on notice and address that point.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you.</p>			
78	DFAT	Waters	<b>Ambassador for the Environment – travel costs</b>	<p>Senator WATERS: In relation to the trips that Australia's Ambassador for the Environment has taken in the last six months to various different destinations for the purposes of discussing the state of the reef, do you have a costing there for his travel and accommodation?</p> <p>Dr Strahan: A lot of the accounts for that are being tabulated, so I cannot give you an accurate figure right now, so I will take that one on notice and we will give you the total figure.</p>	<b>Page 66, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

<b>79</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>Trade deficit</b>	<p>Senator WONG: I want to first go to today's news of the trade deficit, which is, seasonally adjusted, \$3.88 billion. It has been reported as the worst on record. I wonder if you can perhaps tell us if that is correct.</p> <p>Mr Berne: Those data were released this morning for April—a \$3.9 billion deficit. We assessed that there were some extraneous factors at work there, in particular for the non-rural exports, which fell 7.7 per cent. Weather conditions affected coal exports. These were down 22.1 per cent. So ports in Queensland and New South Wales were affected. We also understand that some LNG exports were affected, again by some weather—the unmooring of a plant, I understand, although we are looking into that. Indeed, \$3.9 billion is large. It rivals a figure of around the same magnitude some years ago, in 2012, but it is large and it is the largest on record.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That is a GFC figure, in 2012.</p> <p>Mr Berne: That was post the GFC.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Sorry, you are right. But one quarter?</p> <p>Mr Berne: These are monthly data.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Which was the month in 2012 that you are referencing?</p> <p>Mr Berne: I will have to take that on notice—</p> <p>Senator WONG: You referenced it.</p> <p>Mr Berne: Yes, it was a 2012 figure. I will just get the month.</p>	<b>Page 68, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>80</b>	<b>Efic</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>US Export-Import Bank</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: How many projects are you currently involved with in association with EXIM?</p> <p>Mr Hunter: When you say 'involved', do you mean for the future or previously?</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I mean currently—that are currently operating. How many projects?</p> <p>Mr Hunter: I will take it on notice, but my guess is that it is a handful.</p>	<b>Page 84, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>81</b>	<b>Efic</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Funding to SMEs</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Would you take this on notice: over the past 10 years, can you list the top 10 companies according to the money received from Efic?</p> <p>Mr Hunter: I will take that on notice, yes.</p>	<b>Page 86, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>



82	Efic	Rhiannon	<b>Productivity Commission recommendations</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I will quote an estimates transcript from 2013. I asked a question and Ms Piggott answered: [...] part of EFIC's considerations in looking at projects and agreeing to them or not includes social and environmental considerations along with the financial criteria.</p> <p>Keeping that in mind, I want to revisit the Productivity Commission—I was looking at it again and I am still surprised by your resistance to picking up on some of those recommendations. One of the recommendations was that 'the minister release a national interest statement to be tabled in parliament for all ministerial directions for transactions on the national interest account'. That was rejected. It seems to me that the national interest statement is so similar to what Ms Piggott set out. Could you explain why that recommendation was not accepted?</p> <p>Mr Hunter: Firstly, I am not familiar with who Ms Piggott is, but, that aside, we will take that question on notice because the national interest account is an account that Efic manages on behalf of the government, so what it chooses to disclose and not disclose is really a matter for government.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Would you comment on the ones you did not accept at the time. We know the ones you accepted, but please comment on the ones you did not accept and whether you have revisited them.</p> <p>Mr Hunter: I will take that on notice. I do not have a full copy of the Productivity Commission review in front of me and, therefore, I do not know which ones we have not adopted and which ones we have.</p>	<b>Page 87, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
83	Efic	Rhiannon	<b>Question No. 76 from February 2015</b>	<p>Senator RHIANNON: In your answer to question No. 76 from February 2015, you provided some figures comparing the transactions both in dollar terms and in percentage terms, and also numbers of transactions, again making the comparison in numbers and percentages. Would you update those figures and on a financial year basis, please.</p>	<b>Page 87, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
84	Efic	Fawcett	<b>Dairy exports to China</b>	<p>Mr Hunter: Twelve months ago we would have had around 15, so we have doubled the number of people. We have hired two people in Brisbane, in Melbourne and in Western Australia who are dedicated solely to originating export transactions. We look after Tasmania out of Victoria and we look after South Australia out of Western Australia. The South Australian market has actually been very active for us. We have done three transactions in the last six to 12 months in the wine industry. So the depreciation of the Aussie dollar as well as the FTAs has really opened up the wine industry for us.</p>	<b>Page 116, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				<p>Senator FAWCETT: Have you had any applications from the South Australian dairy association? They are exporting fresh milk to China at the moment and seeking to expand.</p> <p>Mr Hunter: I will take that on notice. Off the top of my head, I do not know of any, but there may well be some. So I will take that on notice.</p>			
85	DFAT	Wong	<b>WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement</b>	<p>Senator WONG: Where is the million from, in the line—you know the table.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Sorry?</p> <p>Senator WONG: The \$1 million under the trade facilitation agreement.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And it is ODA eligible. The table that was handed up with all the line items that you are now hiding; you are not putting in the budget papers. You are putting them on a website—</p> <p>Mr Varghese: That is on the website, yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: but it is hard to access. I just want to know which line item the \$1 million comes from.</p> <p>Mr Varghese: I do not know the answer to that. If I can take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Take it on notice, yes.</p>	<b>Page 111, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
86	DFAT	Wong	<b>Investment Facilitation Arrangements</b>	<p>Senator WONG: If the agreement does not preclude the minister from imposing such requirements, can I infer that it would not prevent the parliament from doing that too?</p> <p>Ms Adams: I recall that we had an exchange about this before. The logic of this arrangement is that it would be negotiated by a project proponent at the early stage of a major investment, which is what the scope is. I am not sure how logical it is to be doing labour market testing on specific jobs when you are talking potentially about an arrangement to cover a future planned investment. I am not sure exactly how that would work. That is why labour market analysis makes more sense in advance.</p> <p>Senator WONG: But doesn't that work by way of sponsorship obligations, potentially, because they are contemporaneous rolling obligations in a current labour market? Do you see what I am saying? I get what you are saying. We have agreed that there is no labour market testing up-front for whatever reasons. But the question I am asking is about the ongoing sponsorship obligations under an IFA which apply each time someone is sponsored.</p> <p>Ms Adams: I think in the way it has been worked out between us in the negotiation the logic of it was to facilitate investment projects. So the idea was that it would give certainty to a project proponent that they would be able to access skilled</p>	<b>Page 101, BE 4 Jun</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

			<p>labour from overseas—that is not just China, by the way—to the extent they thought they needed to do so to get confidence at the beginning of the project that they would be able to deliver it to their requirements.</p> <p>The other side of the coin is that it was not negotiated in huge detail. It is a framework agreement that says,</p> <p>'You can go and negotiate a specific agreements to cover your project.' So, therefore, all those details are not either included or excluded.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I understand the policy logic or objective that you have outlined. I suppose I am just trying to understand the legal space about whether sponsorship obligations could go to issues such as labour market testing.</p> <p>Ms Adams: My understanding is they could—but, if you like, I will take it on notice to clarify.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CHAIR: Could I just clarify a couple of points, Ms Adams. The IFAs are subject to a project value of at least \$150 million. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Adams: That is correct.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is in the sectors that we identified before dinner, which I think Mr Gosper mentioned. Is it specific to those sectors—infrastructure development in food, agribusiness, recourses, energy, transport and telecommunications, power? Is it restricted to those areas or are there projects of \$150 million or more in other, unrelated sectors as well—the others being power supply generation, environment and tourism?</p> <p>Ms Adams: I think we were talking about different lists of sectors.</p> <p>CHAIR: We were. But I am just asking: are they limited to those specific sectors or are they across the board?</p> <p>Ms Adams: There is a specified list of sectors. I think they are in the questions on notice. I also have them here. I just need to find them.</p> <p>CHAIR: Perhaps you could take that on notice. I do not want to hold up the train of conversation.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WONG: I would like you to take this on notice. I know this is complicated, and I know I am asking questions which appear to be going to guidelines that have not been drafted, but the nub of the question is trying to understand what scope the MOU leaves the minister and the parliament. I want to understand whether or not the MOU would preclude the minister or the parliament requiring that sponsorship obligations under an IFA include a labour market testing requirement.</p> <p>Ms Adams: We will take that on notice.</p>			
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87	DFAT	Whish-Wilson	AUSFTA	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I have a question from a stakeholder about the Australia-US free-trade agreement concerning the review of technological protection measure exceptions made under the Copyright Act 1968. Was it part of the Australia-US free-trade agreement that this should be reviewed every four years? I just want clarification for a stakeholder. Also, has that occurred? Could you take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Adams: I am sorry but I do not recall.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Could you take on notice the question of whether there have been reviews every four years? Looking at the standards for other trade negotiations.</p> <p>Ms Adams: Yes.</p>	Page 106, BE 4 Jun	31/07/15	13/08/15
88	DFAT	Wong	National Committee on Trade Facilitation	<p>Senator WONG: Is the National Committee on Trade Facilitation in existence?</p> <p>Ms Holmes: There has been the process of establishing the National Committee on Trade Facilitation. As I understand it, the first meeting is not yet been held, but that is being established and that has been progressed.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are you able, on notice, to provide me with a list of the members of that committee?</p> <p>Ms Holmes: Yes.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Ms Holmes: Yes. Australia has been assisting developing countries undertake trade facilitation reforms. We are contributing \$6 million over three years. That is in relation to the World Bank's Trade Facilitation Support Program. We have also pledged to \$1 million to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Is that \$1 million a single donation or is it \$250,000 over four years? Do you want to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Adams: It is a single.</p> <p>Ms Holmes: It is a single, one-off donation at this stage.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has that been transacted?</p> <p>Ms Holmes: My understanding is that we have pledged that, but I will have to take on notice whether we have actually paid that.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Is that ODA eligible?</p> <p>Ms Holmes: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Perhaps on notice, because I do not want to have to go through tables with Mr Wood again, Mr Varghese—</p>	Page 110, BE 4 Jun	31/07/15	13/08/15

				Mr Varghese: I appreciate that, Senator.			
89	DFAT	Wong	Trade in Services Agreement	Senator WONG: Can you provide me, on notice, with the costs associated with the negotiation of this agreement for the current financial year, please? Ms Adams: Certainly.	Page 111, BE 4 Jun	31/07/15	13/08/15
90	DFAT	Wong	Ministerial Travel – Trade and Investment Minister’s travel to Gulf Cooperation Council states	Ms Adams: Minister Robb has made clear that we would like to restart the negotiations that have long lapsed with the Gulf Cooperation Council states. He did a recent trip a few weeks ago to the region and met all of the relevant people across the different countries to try to encourage them to commit to a start date. Those countries have been reviewing their positions now for quite some time, so we are trying to get that going again. But I do not have a precise outcome yet. Senator WONG: Can you tell me who was on the trip? Ms Adams: Who from the department? Senator WONG: Who did the public pay for? Ms Adams: An assistant secretary from the Department of Foreign Affairs accompanied the minister. From his office— Senator WONG: I do not need to know the name. It was one or two staff. Why don't you take it on notice?	Page 111, BE 4 Jun	31/07/15	13/08/15
91	DFAT	Bullock	Development assistance funds and abortion	What is the total amount of Australian development assistance funds allocated to activities which allow for the provision of abortion services, with a breakdown into specific activities or projects: (a) expended in 2014-15; (b) budgeted for 2015-16; and (c) in the forward estimates for each of the years 2016-17; 2017-18 and 2018-19?	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15

92	DFAT	Bullock	<b>International Planned Parenthood Federation</b>	<p>1. Page 31 of the 2013 Financial Statements of the IPPF record \$A 6 million as being received by IPPF from the Government of Australia in 2013 as “Unrestricted Funds”. On page 30 of the 2013 Financial Statements, it states “Unrestricted – where the funds are not restricted as to use but may be applied for any purpose within the charity’s objects.” Please clarify if this in an accurate description of these funds. May they be applied “for any purpose within the charity’s [i.e IPPF’s] objects”?</p> <p>2. In the answer to Question No 82 asked by Senator Bullock for Additional Estimates 2015 it is stated that “IPPF allocates funds to member associations in a way that ensures it complies with its contractual obligations to the Government of Australia”.</p> <p>(a) What are these contractual obligations ?</p> <p>(b) Please provide copies of all documents setting out these contractual obligations.</p> <p>(c) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the allocation by the IPPF to its member associations of funds provided by Australia for each financial year since 2009/10.</p> <p>3. Please provide copies of any correspondence between IPPF and any of its member associations relating to the expenditure of allocated funds that originate from Australian development assistance funds.</p> <p>4. In the answer to Question No 83 asked by Senator Bullock for Additional Estimates 2015 it is stated that “IPPF’s claim that ‘it has not provided abortions beyond 20 weeks gestation’ relates to the use of Australian development assistance funds”. Which of IPPF’s member associations provide abortions beyond 20 weeks gestation?</p> <p>5. (a) In the answer to Question No 84 asked by Senator Bullock for Additional Estimates 2015 correspondence copies of two emails from Matthew Lindley, Senior Adviser, Resource Mobilization, IPPF are supplied. Is this the entire body of correspondence from the IPPF regarding “abortions performed beyond 20 weeks gestation, performed for sex selection or performed under coercion by the State”?</p> <p>(b) If not please provide all such correspondence.</p> <p>(c) If so, how are these brief emails considered to be sufficient on which to base an assurance that no Australian development assistance funds given to IPPF are used to fund abortions performed beyond 20 weeks gestation, performed for sex selection or performed under coercion by the State?</p>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
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93	DFAT	Hanson-Young	<b>Official Development Assistance – East Asia / People Smuggling</b>	<p>(a) Does the Department know how many migrants remain stranded in the Andaman Sea today?</p> <p>(b) Does the Department know how many migrants died or are currently unaccounted for as a result of the recent turn-back of boats in the Andaman Sea?</p> <p>(c) What percentage of the migrants recently turned-back in the Andaman Sea was Rohingya?</p> <p>(d) What representations were made by Australia (if any) to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in relation to the recent turn-back of boats in the Andaman Sea?</p> <p>(e) What representations were made by Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia (if any) to Australia in relation to the recent turn-back of boats in the Andaman Sea?</p> <p>(f) What position did Australia take to the 29 May meeting on People Smuggling in Bangkok and what outcomes did the meeting achieve?</p> <p>(g) How does persecution of the Rohingya in Burma affect instability and insecurity in South-East Asia? What impacts does this have on Australia?</p> <p>(h) What is Australia doing to address persecution of Rohingya in Burma? Can the Department confirm that aid to Burma in the 2015-16 budget was cut by \$28m? What is the impact of these cuts on addressing the situation in Rakhine State? What increases to aid to Burma have been announced since the budget?</p> <p>(i) Does turning back boats carrying asylum-seekers in South-East Asia (including Australia) contribute to instability in the region?</p>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
94	DFAT	Madigan	<b>PNG – funding to projects</b>	Can the Department please provide me with a list of all project names AusAid has been involved with in Papua New Guinea since 2008 and the area in which the project was conducted?	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
95	DFAT	Rhiannon	<b>Maldives</b>	<p>1. Please provide an update on the efforts to raise human rights and democratisation concerns with the Maldives Government?</p> <p>(a) Where are things up to there?</p> <p>(b) What issues has the Australian government raised?</p> <p>2. Has the Australian government provided any further specific funding to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in the Maldives? If so how much for the last two financial years and what projects have this money funded?</p> <p>3. How are the department benchmarks progressing towards democratisation going in the Maldives?</p>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15

96	DFAT	Rhiannon	ODA Transparency	Please provide details (projects) of all annual ODA eligible expenditure by the department over the last five years?	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
97	DFAT	Rhiannon	PNG – Society and Governance in Melanesia	<p>In relation to answers provided during the recent senate estimates hearing on 4 June 2015:</p> <p>Mr Daniel Sloper, First Assistant Secretary (Pacific Division) DFAT answered that the State Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) program, and its Fellow Anthony Regan, does not advise DFAT stating "He works for that group [SSGM] within the Australian National University, but it has no formal advisory role other than that we consult with a range of academics across Australia who have experiences in Papua New Guinea and he is one of those we consult with".</p> <p>A February 2015 report published by DFAT entitled 'Research for better aid: An evaluation of DFAT's investments', suggests SSGM and its researchers do formally advise DFAT. The report notes, "In interviews, both SSGM and DFAT staff claim that DFAT has been relatively effective at making use of quick-turnaround analytical material and direct advice from SSGM". It also quotes from the funding agreement between SSGM and DFAT stating, "SSGM will be required to interact with [the department] at a more strategic and programmatic level than previously, and [the department] will be required to facilitate this 'step up'".</p> <p>(a) Why did Mr Sloper claim that SSGM has no formal advisory role given the report's statements clarifying otherwise?</p> <p>(b) Please clarify the nature of this relationship between the DFAT and SSGM?</p> <p>(c) Given that DFAT contributes over \$6 million annually to SSGM, please provide a copy of or any information about the DFAT-SSGM funding agreement, October 2013.</p> <p>(d) Please provide copies of any analytical materials delivered to DFAT by SSGM on Bougainville.</p>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
98	DFAT	Rhiannon	PNG – Bougainville	<p>(a) What technical support or funding has the Australian government provided each year to the Office of Panguna Negotiations on Bougainville, since it opened?</p> <p>(b) The UN Conference on Sustainable Development has called for a people-centred approach to sustainable development which addresses the millennium goals to eradicate poverty, support sustainable use of natural resources for future generations and support people enjoying their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Mining Working Group at the UN has developed 'A rights-</p>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15



			<p>based approach to resource extraction in the pursuit of sustainable development.’ Is the department aware of this approach and this research, which considers supporting human rights of Indigenous communities as a key to long-term, sustainable development, safety and security? How is it integrating this into the consideration of aid projects and other DFAT-supported initiatives in particular in PNG / Bougainville, and the methodology for developing potential initiatives going forward?</p> <p>(c) The Australian government has funded a range of forums and advisory staff directly involved in facilitating the reopening of Bougainville’s Panguna mine. Given the aforementioned warnings about the risks this involves, can you explain what authorities and sources of information you employ to determine whether the mine’s reopening is welcomed by the traditional landowners? Could you also explain what are the particular policy principles informing Australia’s support for the mine’s reopening?</p> <p>(d) In response to a previous question on notice, dated 26/2/2015 DFAT notes ‘DFAT officials meet regularly with landowners in Bougainville, including in the Panguna mine area, to listen to their views and to inform Australia’s ongoing development activities’. What villages in the Panguna region Australia government officials have visited in the last year? And can you also advise what is meant by ‘regularly’?</p> <p>(e) In light of past policy failures with respect towards Bougainville, what empirical evidence do you draw upon when constructing and reviewing Australia’s strategy on Bougainville? How is this evidence collected?</p> <p>(f) What areas of Bougainville’s economy does DFAT believe need to be prioritised when delivering aid? Can you also set out why you think these areas are important?</p> <p>(g) Recently, it was announced that the Australian government will erect a diplomatic mission in Bougainville (Buka). Why was it deemed necessary to upgrade the existing post on Bougainville to a diplomatic mission? Can you outline how many DFAT and High Commission staff are currently stationed at Bougainville-Buka? Can you outline how many Department of Defence and Australian Defence Force staff are currently stationed at Bougainville-Buka? What are the positions of these staff and what is their role on Bougainville-Buka? Will the number of Australian government staff stationed on Bougainville increase as a result of the mission? If so, what new positions will be funded within the Bougainville mission? What influence did the proposed reopening of the Panguna Mine have on opening this diplomatic mission?</p> <p>(h) Given the controversy surrounding the diplomatic mission upgrade, can you explain what steps were taken to advise Prime Minister O’Neill of the proposed</p>			
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				upgrade? Can you also outline when these steps were taken?			
99	DFAT	Rhiannon	<b>PNG – Bougainville – Panguna Mine</b>	<p>In relation to answers provided during the recent senate estimates hearing on 4 June 2015:</p> <p>Mr Daniel Sloper also claimed "we [DFAT] do not provide any funding to support the opening of the Panguna mine". This contradicts previous answers on notice provided by DFAT in December 2014 which stated “Australia co-funds with New Zealand the Governance Implementation Fund (GIF). The GIF expended \$436,264.65 up to 31 October 2014 to implement the Mining Community Negotiations and Consultations Project”.</p> <p>DFAT also acknowledge the provision of advisory staff to the ABG, whose mandate includes facilitating Panguna’s reopening. DFAT notes that it has helped fund at an annual cost of \$362,117, “a Mining Negotiations Adviser, Professor Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh, to support the ABG to consult and negotiate with relevant communities and stakeholders on the reopening of the Panguna Mine”. DFAT also acknowledges funding an "ABG Strategic and Legal Advisor, Mr Anthony Regan, to advise the Bougainville Executive Council, and Chief Administrator and the Autonomous Bougainville Government on a broad range of legal, constitutional and policy issues”. Critically this “included advice on mining policy and negotiations on re-opening the Panguna copper mine and assistance with the development of the proposed Bougainville Mining Act and interim mining legislation. Total funding for this position, including work unrelated to mining, since 2010 was \$968,120”.</p> <p>At a 2013 seminar Raymond Masuno, Director, Bougainville Government's Office of Panguna Negotiation, also acknowledged AusAID support for the office.</p> <p>(a) In light of the conflicting messages given by DFAT, please provide with a full account of all monies spent on activities related to the reopening of the Panguna mine including: a list of Australian advisory staff whose role has included support for the mine reopening; events including meetings, information sessions etc related to the mine reopening; and Australian funding given to organisations and government departments directly responsible for organising Panguna's reopening?</p> <p>(b) Given support has been clearly given to the reopening of Panguna, prior to the advancement of funds for this purpose, please provide: advice and research,</p>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15

				<p>cost/benefit analyses, and risk assessments that show: Australia’s funding towards the mine reopening is in the Australian national interest, and the mine’s reopening is in interests of the Bougainville’s people including landowning communities.</p> <p>(c) Please provide Australia, and DFAT’s policy position on the above issues.</p> <p>(d) Please explain why Australian funding is supporting a risky economic project that has the potential to destabilise the region once again?</p>			
<b>100</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>PNG &amp; Bougainville</b>	<p>(a) In early 2015 DFAT published A New Direction for Australian Aid in PNG: Refocusing Australian Aid to Help Unlock PNG’s Economic Potential. In the strategy document it is stated: ‘The Abbott Government has set a new direction for Australian aid which is directly aligned with PNG’s own economic growth agenda – to focus more heavily on private sector-led growth, including through support for initiatives to reduce the constraints to business and to help PNG foster trade and investment’. The assessment notes a need to improve the ‘enabling environment for business’. Can you explain in greater detail, the ‘constraints to business’ that will be targeted? And how will an enabling environment for business be developed?</p> <p>(b) The assessment outlines the following goal: ‘Increase effective partnerships with the private sector. This should include increased engagement with business to guide improvements in the legal, regulatory and policy environment and to support more effective service delivery in PNG’. Can you detail how you plan to engage business in the improvement of the legal, regulatory and policy environment?</p> <p>(c) Do you have similar plans to engage communities and civil society in the improvement of the legal, regulatory and policy environment? If so, can you explain how you plan to engage communities and civil society?</p> <p>(d) The assessment issues the following objective: ‘Increase aid investments in Bougainville as a greater proportion of the bilateral PNG program’. Can you explain what initiatives in particular will be funded through this increase?</p> <p>(e) It is noted in the assessment document that Australia may ‘upgrade existing arrangements for consultations with business on the aid program, including by expanding the dialogue to encompass the broader economic policy settings in PNG’. Can you detail the mechanisms DFAT may use to consult with business in this respect? What areas will DFAT be seeking business input on? Are there similar plans to upgrade existing arrangements for consultations with civil society on the aid program?</p> <p>(f) According to DFAT, ‘The assessment’s recommendations are based on extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders from PNG and Australia including Government, business, civil society and international donors’. The vast</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				majority of the non-government stakeholders consulted during this assessment appear to be from the extractive industry, agribusiness or select international NGOs and International Financial Institutions. Why is there a notable lack of consultation with the wide range of Papua New Guinea NGOs working on development related issues (such as CELCOR, Act Now, Eco Forestry Forum, Partners with Melanesia, Bismarck Ramu Group, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, etc)?			
<b>101</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<p>In the Philippines in 2014 two Philippine citizens, Vic and Dorma Ridon, received life sentences from their role in making graphic videos of horrific animal killing (crush videos made for sexual fetishism). It was reported that the court was told by the accused an Australian man paid for and directed the content of the videos in which girls and young women who were forced to kill animals.</p> <p>(a) Has the Australian Embassy in the Philippines been informed of this case?</p> <p>(b) If yes, is the Department aware if the alleged Australian perpetrator behind this case is being investigated? And if yes: where is this up to; and are alleged Australian purchasers of the video also being investigated?</p> <p>(c) If no, would Australia investigate any Australian involvement if requested, where an Australian national is directing animal abuse and what amounts to sexual abuse in another country?</p> <p>(d) What is the process by which such an investigation would occur?</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>102</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Indonesia – West Papua</b>	<p>(a) Please provide an update on DFAT activities in West Papua?</p> <p>(b) What aid projects are currently being funded in West Papua? What is the purpose of these projects? Who is responsible for each project – the Indonesia government, a West Papuan based organisation, a West Papuan local government, a multilateral body, and NGO or some other body?</p> <p>(c) Have any aid projects in West Papua had their budget cut in the last financial year? If so what projects have had their funding cut and what will be the result of these cuts?</p> <p>(d) Will any aid projects in West Papua have their budget cut in the current financial year? If so what projects will have their funding cut and what will be the result of these cuts?</p> <p>(e) What assistance has DFAT provided to Australians to visit West Papua? Please supply names and positions of those who visited, dates of visit, destination of visit, purpose of visit, assistance provided for the last two financial years?</p> <p>(f) Has the Australian government provided any specific funding to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in West Papua? If so how much for the last two financial years and what projects has this money funded?</p> <p>(g) Have talks been held with the Indonesian government about the role of the</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				<p>Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)?</p> <p>(h) Have talks been held with any West Papuans about the role of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)?</p> <p>(i) Does the Australian government support non-country groups joining the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)?</p>			
<b>103</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Rohingya</b>	<p>(a) Please provide an update on DFAT activities associated with <i>Rohingya communities inside and outside Burma</i>?</p> <p>(b) What aid projects are currently being provided for <i>Rohingya communities in Burma</i>? What is the purpose of these projects? What is the funding for each project? Has the funding been cut for any of these projects and if so which ones and by how much? Will the funding be cut for any of these projects and if so which ones and by how much?</p> <p>(c) What aid projects are currently being provided for <i>Rohingya communities on the Burmese border</i>? What is the purpose of these projects? What is the funding for each project? Has the funding been cut for any of these projects and if so which ones and by how much? Will the funding be cut for any of these projects and if so which ones and by how much?</p> <p>(d) What aid projects are currently being provided for <i>Rohingya communities outside Burma</i>? What is the purpose of these projects? What is the funding for each project? Has the funding been cut for any of these projects and if so which ones and by how much? Will the funding be cut for any of these projects and if so which ones and by how much?</p> <p>(e) Are you aware that the UN agency that helped Burma conduct its census found that the Burmese government did not permit the Rohingya Muslim population to be counted? Has the Foreign Minister or any DFAT staff taken up this issue with the Burmese government? What is the position of the Australian government on the failure of the Burmese government to include the Rohingya Muslim population in the census count? Have representations been made to the Burmese government to ensure the Rohingya Muslim population are included in future census counts? If so who made those representations and when were they made?</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

<b>104</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Rhiannon</b>	<b>Vision 2020</b>	<p>(a) Can the Department advise the Committee of the total Overseas Development Assistance allocation within the 2015-16 international development budget for programs targeting avoidable blindness, eye health and disability support for people with unavoidable blindness and vision impairment?</p> <p>(b) Can the Department advise the Committee of the breakdown of Overseas Development Assistance by bilateral, in-country assistance, regional and country programs within the 2015-16 international development budget for programs targeting avoidable blindness, eye health and disability support for people with unavoidable blindness and vision impairment?</p> <p>(c) Can the Department advise the Committee of the specific programs and corresponding Overseas Development Assistance allocation within the 2015-16 international development budget targeting avoidable blindness, eye health and disability support for people with unavoidable blindness and vision impairment?</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>105</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Singh</b>	<b>OECD Export Credits</b>	<p>The Australian Government presented a position paper to the OECD Export Credits Group on 4 March 2015 that stated that Australia does not support any changes to the current OECD arrangement in regards to support for coal-fired power plants.</p> <p>(a) When did Cabinet decide this position?</p> <p>(b) Were meetings held with major coal exporters in advance of developing this position paper?</p> <p>(c) What consultations were held with civil society organisations in advance of deciding upon this position?</p> <p>(d) Given the United States and the United Kingdom support restrictions on financing for coal-fired power plants, why is the Australian Government siding with the Japanese Government over this issue?</p> <p>(e) Will Australia maintain its position at the forthcoming Export Credit Group meeting in June in Paris, or is there a possibility that the Government will be willing to compromise in order to seek a position agreeable to all the members of the Export Credit Group?</p> <p>(f) Given that Government's Export Finance Insurance Corporation (EFIC) does not currently finance coal-fired power plants, and that Australian companies do not specialise in exporting coal-fired technology, what are Australia's trade interests in opposing restrictions in financing coal-fired power plants at the Export Credit Group?</p> <p>(g) Can you confirm whether the Government is considering extending export credits to Australian business to build coal plants overseas through EFIC, as inferred in the Energy White Paper?</p> <p>(h) Is EFIC being asked by the Government to start extending export credits to Australian companies to build coal plants overseas?</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				(i) If so, are there particular coal-plant projects currently being considered by EFIC?			
<b>106</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Bernardi</b>	<b>Aid funding for family planning</b>	<p>(a) How much Commonwealth aid funding is spent per annum on family planning programs overseas, for the past two financial years?</p> <p>(b) Please provide a breakdown for the funding per country.</p> <p>(c) How many of those programs offer abortion services?</p> <p>(d) For these programs, please provide the funding given to each program in the last two financial years.</p> <p>(e) Is the Department aware of exactly how much Commonwealth aid funding goes towards funding overseas abortions each year? If so, please provide a breakdown of the funding spent each year for the past two financial years.</p> <p>(f) How much Commonwealth aid funding is spent per annum on funding midwives and clean birthing facilities overseas, for the past two financial years?</p> <p>(g) Please provide a breakdown for the funding per country.</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>107</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Xenophon</b>	<b>Indonesia – Elizabeth O’Neill Journalism Award</b>	<p>Question re Elizabeth O’Neill journalism award (“sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia-Indonesia Institute and [...] conferred annually on one Australian and one Indonesian journalist. It is open to print, radio, television and internet journalists.”) [ref: <a href="http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2011/kr_mr_111215.html">http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2011/kr_mr_111215.html</a>].</p> <p>(a) Did any of the winners of the award report on the Papuan provinces?</p> <p>(b) Did any of them ask the Australian government to liaise with Indonesia to facilitate entry to the Papuan Provinces?</p> <p>(c) Did any of them report difficulties in gaining access to the Papuan provinces?</p> <p>(d) Did any of them provide a report of their activities to the Australian government at the conclusion of their term?</p> <p>(e) Please provide these reports.</p> <p>(f) What kind of assistance did Australia provide Indonesia during the Asian Financial Crisis? Please itemise the programs and dollar amounts.</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

108	DFAT	Xenophon	FTAs	<p>Australia has FTAs with Singapore (2003), New Zealand (2004), United States (2005), Thailand (2005) and Chile (2009), the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations and New Zealand (ASEAN – 2009), and Malaysia (2013).</p> <p>(a) I note that ACCI surveyed 4000 of its members in 2010 asking whether they participated in any of our Preferential Trade Agreements (FTAs). Just 51 firms – or less than 2 per cent – responded that they did. Does DFAT track the participation levels of Australian businesses in Preferential Trade Agreements (FTAs)?</p> <p>(b) If so, could DFAT please tell the committee what the participation numbers are for our FTAs as of the latest figures for each of our agreements?</p> <p>(c) Does DFAT agree that the average level of participation by Australian business is modest?</p> <p>(d) Given that FTAs are supposed to be beneficial to Australian businesses, not just Australian consumers, what is DFAT doing about increasing the participation of our firms in our FTAs?</p> <p>(e) Does DFAT track the trade performance of Australia with our FTA partner countries?</p> <p>(f) According to ABS data that I’ve had analysed, it appears that Australia encounters deteriorating trade performance and higher volatility with FTA partner countries once the FTA is signed (see attached release) – will DFAT release its analysis of Australia relative trade performance with FTA partner nations in the five years prior to the signing and for each year since?</p> <p>(g) Has DFAT done an analysis (independent or internal) of its predictions in relation to trade and economic improvements made before FTAs are signed and how these predictions compare with the reality of the trade and economic outcomes since the agreements were signed?</p> <p>(h) If so, what has DFAT found in terms of the reliability of its predictions?</p> <p>(i) Will DFAT release this data?</p> <p>(j) Why doesn’t the Government adopt the recommendation of the Productivity Commission and ACCI and engage independent analysis of potential FTAs ahead so that the so-called benefits can be weighed-up ahead of negotiations and spruiking by DFAT and the Government?</p> <p>(k) Further, why isn’t the performance of our FTAs independently and publicly assessed by a body such as the ABS so that we can track their performance and whether they are truly beneficial to Australia as a whole?</p> <p>(l) Many businesses and their representative bodies have called for a “standard form” for Australian FTAs that would be public and widely understood – because of the complexity and lack of understanding of each of our FTAs, leading to a lack of participation from Australian businesses. Has DFAT considered going down</p>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
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				<p>this road?</p> <p>(m) In relation to the KAFTA (Korea-Australia FTA) – why is it that Australia agreed to watered-down work and human rights conditions in relation to the Outward Processing Zone in North Korea compared to the agreement signed by the US with Korea?</p>			
<b>109</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Whish-Wilson</b>	<b>OECD Export Credits</b>	<p>The government presented a position paper to the OECD Export Credits Group on 4 March 2015 stating that Australia does not support any changes to the current OECD arrangement in regards to support for coal-fired power plants.</p> <p>(a) When did the government decide this position? Was this a cabinet decision?</p> <p>(b) Were major coal exporters consulted in advance of developing this position paper?</p> <p>(c) Were civil society groups consulted in advance of developing this position paper?</p> <p>(d) Was the United States consulted in advance of developing this position paper?</p> <p>(e) Was the United Kingdom consulted in advance of developing this position paper?</p> <p>(f) Will Australia maintain this position at the forthcoming Export Credit Group meeting in Paris?</p> <p>(g) What are Australia’s trade interests in opposing restrictions in financing coal-fired power plants at the Export Credit Group?</p> <p>(h) Is the government considering extending export credits to Australian businesses to build coal plants overseas through EFIC?</p> <p>(i) Is EFIC being asked by the government to extend export credits to Australian companies to build coal plants overseas? If so, are there particular projects currently being considered by EFIC?</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>UNWTO</b>	<p>What date will Australia’s withdrawal from UNWTO take effect?</p>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

111	DFAT	Ludwig	<b>Non-Australian Citizens Employed by the Department/Agency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the Department/Agency's policy with regard to hiring non-Australian citizens?</li> <li>2. Does the agency have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) policy? If yes, please provide a summary.</li> <li>3. How does the Department/Agency determine whether a person is a non-Australian citizen?</li> <li>4. How many staff who were not Australian Citizens have been hired by the Department/Agency since the Federal Election in September, 2013? Please break the numbers down by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Levels at which they are employed</li> <li>(b) Immigration Status (Visa)</li> <li>(c) Cultural Background</li> <li>(d) Linguistic Background</li> <li>(e) How many were hired to satisfy CALD targets?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
112	DFAT	Ludwig	<b>Departmental Dispute Resolution</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?</li> <li>2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).</li> <li>(b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.</li> <li>(c) When the contract with the firm commenced.</li> <li>(d) When the contract with the firm will expire.</li> <li>(e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.</li> <li>(f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?</li> <li>4. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).</li> <li>(b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.</li> <li>(c) When the contract with the firm commenced.</li> <li>(d) When the contract with the firm will expire.</li> <li>(e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.</li> <li>(f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

113	DFAT	Wong	China	<p><i>In reference to Additional Estimates QoN #26</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who was responsible for selecting the 15 representatives who attended last year's High Level Dialogue in Beijing?</li> <li>• Who had final decision making power over the list?</li> <li>• Will the same process be used this year?</li> <li>• What were the costs associated with each representative met by the Department?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
114	DFAT	Wong	Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How were these cuts to Indonesia's aid program discussed with the Indonesian government?</li> <li>• What officials and at what level was the initial conversation had?</li> <li>• How did Indonesia's leadership respond?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
115	DFAT	Wong	Ministerial Travel – EU	<p>In late April Minister Bishop visited France and Germany and attended the GCCS2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much time did she spend in country?</li> <li>• Did she travel on a commercial or RAAF (VIP) flight?</li> <li>• How many staff travelled with her?</li> <li>• Which staff members travelled with her?</li> <li>• Do those staff members work for her office or for the PM's office? If from the PM's office, was this a one-off instance or a reoccurring staffing arrangement?</li> <li>• What were the purposes of the visit?</li> <li>• Who did she meet with?</li> <li>• What were the outcomes of those meetings?</li> <li>• What was the total cost of the trip?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
116	DFAT	Wong	Pacific ODA funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to the following Pacific Countries: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau</li> <li>• When were these governments told about the level of aid from Australia for 2015-16?</li> <li>• Who was informed in in each of these governments?</li> <li>• Who from Australia informed the governments about the level of aid our partners would receive?</li> <li>• What was the reaction from each country when they were informed of the level of funding from Australia?</li> </ul>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15

117	DFAT	Wong	Ministerial travel – Bipartisan Pacific trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the Department agree that bipartisan trips are valuable?</li> <li>• Will there be a bipartisan trip to the Pacific this year?</li> <li>• Will there be a bipartisan trip to the Pacific next year?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
118	DFAT	Wong	Ambassador for Women and Girls	<p><i>Referencing Additional Estimates QoN #151:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the Department provide an updated version of the table provided in part e, f, g?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
119	DFAT	Wong	Cultural visits program	<p><i>Referencing Additional Estimates QoN #157:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the Department provide an updated list since December 2014 including the following parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who participated in each activity?</li> <li>○ What were the outcomes of each activity?</li> <li>○ What were the costs associated with each activity/participant?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
120	DFAT	Wong	Public diplomacy	<p><i>Referencing Additional Estimates QoN #158:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the Department provide an update on DFAT’s public diplomacy budget?</li> <li>• Have there been a reduction in the number of public diplomacy initiatives or the scale?</li> </ul>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
121	DFAT	Dastyari	Consular – Mr Morison	<p>Mr Philp: We are aware that Mr Morison is in discussions with the Thai authorities about ways to deal with the case. I would rather not go into more detail for privacy reasons.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Sure. I have a related question. Is he currently in prison, or do you know what his situation is? Is he under house detention, prison, or bail? I do not know the complexities of the Thai legal system.</p> <p>Mr Philp: I think he is on bail, but I could take it on notice if you wish the precise details.</p>	Page 12, BE 4 Jun	17/07/15	13/08/15

				Senator DASTYARI: Yes. If you would take on notice what kinds of restrictions have been placed on him and placed on his movements.			
122	DFAT	Wong	InnovationXchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In reference to Additional Estimates QoN #13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can the Department provide a copy of the 1000 ideas cited?</li> <li>○ How many of those 1000 ideas have been implemented?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In reference to Additional Estimates QoN #15: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can the Department provide a breakdown of the positions and responsibilities of these staff?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In reference to Additional Estimates QoN #17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can the Department provide a detailed update on the three projects mentioned?</li> <li>○ How many projects are in the pipeline now?</li> <li>○ Can the Department provide details on these projects, their purposes, timeframes and costs?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
123	DFAT	Wong	Role of the Parliamentary Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are Mr Ciobo's responsibilities as Parliamentary Secretary?</li> <li>• What representation has Mr Ciobo done on behalf of the Foreign Minister since 20 December 2014?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
124	DFAT	Wong	Aid - Country Breakdowns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For all countries receiving Australian aid please provide a breakdown of the aid provided in 2014-15 and 2015-16 by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Direct bilateral assistance provided through DFAT;</li> <li>2. An estimate of the amount provided through DFAT regional and global expenditure;</li> <li>3. An estimate ODA-eligible expenditure by other Australian government departments (other than DFAT).</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15

125	DFAT	Wong	Projects cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can the Department provide a full list of investments that have been cut, had budgets reduced, or been ended early as a result of the cuts announced in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook in December 2014 and implemented in the 2015-16 budget?</li> <li>▪ Can the Department provide information on how it will decide which individual investments will be cut and which will be spared? Can DFAT provide its criteria for making these decisions?</li> <li>▪ Can the Department advise what the reaction of partner governments has been to advice of cuts to their bilateral aid program?</li> <li>▪ A chart tabled during Senate Estimates listed ‘committed expenses’ for 2015-16. The following country programs had committed expenses in 2015-16 which were higher than the 2015-16 budget allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vietnam</li> <li>○ Philippines</li> <li>○ Burma</li> <li>○ Laos</li> <li>○ Mongolia</li> <li>○ Bangladesh</li> <li>○ Pakistan</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Could DFAT advise what investments already committed to will need to be cut or reduced in order to achieve the 2015-16 budget?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
126	DFAT	Wong	Sectoral Allocations	<p>What are the budget allocations to each of the ‘priority areas’:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness;</li> <li>2. Agriculture, fisheries and water;</li> <li>3. Effective governance;</li> <li>4. Education and health <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Education (including separate breakdown for Australia Awards)</li> <li>b. Health (including separate breakdown for WASH)</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Building resilience; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Including a breakdown of the global programs</li> <li>b. Country, regional and other programs</li> <li>c. Other government departments</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Gender equality and empowering women and girls.</li> </ol>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15

127	DFAT	Wong	Other Government Departments	Could the Department provide detail of aid allocations to other government departments and a summary of what those aid allocations are spent on?	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
128	DFAT	Wong	Country Level Performance Benchmarks	When will country level performance benchmarks be released?	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
129	DFAT	Wong	Blue Book and Budget Papers	At June 2014 Senate Estimates, the then Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Mason said: “[The website] gives a commensurate level of detail that the blue book historically did.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is that still the case? Why was detailed information about country, regional and global programs not available on budget night?</li> <li>▪ Why were there not full sectoral breakdowns available as had previously been available on budget night?</li> <li>▪ Why were details about the expenditure of ODA by other government departments not available on budget night?</li> </ul>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15
130	DFAT	Wong	Incentive Fund	The Foreign Minister in June 2014 announced there would be an Incentive Fund. “I’m also announcing today the creation of a Performance Incentive Fund, which I envisage will have significant funding attached in coming years. From next year’s budget – 2015 – this incentive fund will offer increased funding for programs and organisations found to be particularly effective in meeting targets and benchmarks.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does funding for this initiative still exist in this budget? If yes, where?</li> </ul>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15

<b>131</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>Development Research</b>	Could the Department provide information on whether the Australian Development Research Grants Scheme will continue to be funded under this budget?	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>132</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>Aid to Delivery Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the proportion of DFAT ODA delivered by NGOs, contractors and multilateral organisations for 2014-15?</li> <li>▪ What is the estimated proportion DFAT ODA delivered by NGOs, contractors and multilateral organisations for 2015-16?</li> </ul>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>17/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>133</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>Performance Benchmarks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benchmark 1: What percentage of the Australian aid budget is invested in 'aid for trade' in the 2015-16 budget?</li> <li>2. Benchmark 2: When will the private sector strategy be publicly released?</li> <li>3. Benchmark 3: The benchmark 3 of delivering Aid Investment Plans for all country and regional programs will not be delivered and has been delayed until September 2015. When will Aid Investment Plans be publicly available?</li> <li>4. Benchmark 4: The Office of Development Effectiveness reported in February 2015 that there had been a decline from the 2012-13 to 2013-14 in the percentage of investments with satisfactory gender equality ratings from 79% to 74%. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What percentage of the aid investments in 2014-15 and 2015-16 are anticipated to address gender issues in their implementation?</li> <li>b. When does the Department anticipate meeting the 80% target?</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Benchmark 5: What percentage of the country program is invested in the Indo-Pacific?</li> <li>6. Benchmark 6: Can the Department advise of the mutual obligations that have been agreed between Australia and key partner governments and organisations which are due to commence in July 2015?</li> <li>7. Benchmark 7: Can the Department advise the new systems to assess the performance of the aid program's key delivery partners and how it will link performance and funding? What information will be publicly released about particular aid delivery partners or classes of aid delivery partners through the Partner Performance Assessment?</li> <li>8. Benchmark 8: What is the Department's measure of value for money? What</li> </ol>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>



				<p>percentage of the aid investments are reaching the benchmark?</p> <p>9. Benchmark 9: Is the Department on track to meet benchmark 9 which requires the reduction of the number of individual investments by 20 percent by 2016-17?</p> <p>10. Benchmark 10: Have the new fraud control and anti-corruption strategies been developed for implementation in July 2015?</p>			
134	DFAT	Wong	<b>Aid spending and funding cuts</b>	<p>How does the government expect that the new 'Aid for Trade' paradigm will achieve positive outcomes for the world's poorest people, given they are often unable to participate in the formal economy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noting the Government's policy commitment to program 90% of funds in the Indo-Pacific region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why has ODA been diverted from the world's least developed countries in Africa, to comparatively prosperous nations in Asia?</li> <li>○ To what extent has the effectiveness of aid played a role in determining which countries will be recipients of ODA?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To what extent have the funding cuts identified for FY16, foreshadowed cuts for FY17? For example, will the 40% cut applied to the majority of UN agencies follow-through as a cut to funding in FY17 and beyond?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
135	DFAT	Wong	<b>Polio Eradication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the Department confirm whether the reduced funding earmarked for polio eradication in the 2015/16 Budget will still go towards the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and supporting the implementation of the <i>2013-2018 Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategy</i>, as it has in previous years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If not, can the Department explain how the Government intends to fulfill its commitment to support polio eradication, and the 2013-18 <i>Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategy</i> specifically, given the GPEI is the partnership, consisting of stakeholders including Rotary International, that has actually been charged by the World Health Assembly to lead eradication efforts worldwide?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Separately, will the Government support proposals to renew global support for the <i>2013-2018 Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategy</i> at this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be hosted by Malta in November?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15

<b>136</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>Food Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not since 2010-2012 has Australia supported the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), when it contributed \$100m (AUD) throughout this period. As one of only ten donors to this Program, will the Government explain why funding has stopped, and where funding to this mechanism is now being directed?</li> <li>• According to the World Bank, agricultural productivity remains two to four times more effective at reducing poverty than growth in any other sector. Will Australia's first ever National Food Plan green paper (to be released this year) commit the country to make it easier for developing countries to access Australian markets?</li> <li>• Will the Government detail how its 2015/16 Budget will boost agricultural productivity for the 75% of the world's poor living in rural areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will the Government be providing support to help smaller holder farmers, or instead supporting innovations that help them reach output markets?</li> <li>○ To what extent will the Government be supporting small holder farmers who suffer from post-harvest losses in income?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>
<b>137</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given that access to sanitation is critical to the empowerment of girls and women, which is a policy priority for the Minister, can the Department confirm whether the Government will continue to fund the work of the Water Supply &amp; Sanitation Collaborative Council and/or its Global Sanitation Fund?</li> </ul>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>
<b>138</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>OECD Peer Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the OECD provided the Minister with a progress report following the OECD's 2013 peer review of Australia's aid?</li> <li>• Can the Department provide a copy of the letter/progress report?</li> </ul>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>23/09/15</b>	<b>15/10/15</b>

139	DFAT	Wong	Australian Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last term of government, AusAID facilitated an annual event where Members of Parliament could thank returned overseas volunteers in their local electorates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What support was provided by AusAID to Members of Parliament to recognise and thank their constituents who had volunteered overseas in the previous term of government?</li> <li>○ When did this support commence?</li> <li>○ When did this support conclude?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How has the goal of supporting Members of Parliament in recognising the efforts of returned overseas aid volunteers been tasked and resourced since AusAID's integration into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?</li> <li>• Can the Department provide a list of returned volunteers on overseas aid projects to local members since AusAID's integration into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15
140	DFAT	Conroy	Iraq – chemical and nuclear weapons	<p>1. During an address to the Australia Group Plenary on 5 June 2015, Foreign Minister Bishop stated that:  <i>“The use of chlorine by Da’esh, and its recruitment of highly technically trained professionals, including from the West, have revealed far more serious efforts in chemical weapons development ... Da’esh is likely to have amongst its tens of thousands of recruits the technical expertise necessary to further refine precursor materials and build chemical weapons.”</i></p> <p>In subsequent comments to The Australian newspaper (<i>“Jihadis’ quest for dirty bomb”</i>, 9 June 2015), Foreign Minister Bishop is reported as saying that her speech was based on reports from the Defence Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is the Department able to confirm reports of the use of chlorine or other chemical agents by Da’esh in Syria and/or Iraq? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If so, on what dates and at what locations did this occur? If possible, please also outline the chemical agents thought to have been used.</li> <li>ii. Have any chemical agents been used in the vicinity of Australian officials in Iraq?</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Is the Department able to confirm that Da’esh has recruited the technical expertise necessary to further refine precursor materials and build chemical weapons? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If so, how many such experts does the Department assess that Da’esh has recruited?</li> <li>ii. What is the Department’s assessment of Da’esh capacity to effectively build and deploy chemical weapons?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written Q	17/07/15	13/08/15

				<p>iii. What is the Department’s overall assessment of the threat of Da’esh using chemical weapons?</p> <p>2. In the same article in The Australian, Foreign Minister Bishop is also reported to have said that Islamic State is believed to have collected radioactive material from hospitals and research centres in Iraq and Syria, raising fears it could build a ‘dirty’ bomb.</p> <p>a. Is the Department able to confirm that Da’esh/Islamic State has successfully collected radioactive materials?</p> <p>i. If so, where and when are radioactive materials understood to have been collected?</p> <p>ii. What is the Department’s assessment of the size and scope of any radioactive material collected by Da’esh?</p> <p>iii. Does the Department assess that this material could be used to construct a ‘dirty’ bomb?</p> <p>iv. Does the Department assess that Da’esh has the necessary skills to effectively weaponise and deploy radioactive material?</p> <p>v. Does the Department have any evidence of Da’esh currently possessing a ‘dirty’ bomb or precursor elements for such a bomb?</p>			
141	DFAT	Wong	<b>Budget Measures – Free Trade Agreement Promotion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a detailed break-down of spending and timing on each budgeted free trade agreement promotional activity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– activities DFAT will undertake at a cost of \$1.2 million in 2015-2016, and \$1.4 million in 2016-2017;</li> <li>– activities AusTrade will undertake at a cost of \$13.4 million in 2015-2016, and \$8.2 million in 2016-2017?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In relation to all planned or anticipated television and radio promotional activities, please provide details on decision making, including compliance with the relevant guidelines.</li> <li>• What promotional activities will DFAT and/or AusTrade undertake regarding current or under negotiation FTAs, other than KAFTA, JAEPA and ChAFTA? Please describe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What are the costs of these other promotional activities and how are they funded?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In relation to the proposed “online dashboard-portal – including a comprehensive tariff finder”, initially for exports to Korea, Japan and China: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Please describe the development process?</li> <li>– Who was involved in the project design?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who was involved in the contracted data preparation?</li> <li>- Has industry been involved?</li> <li>- What role will the NICTA have in the development of the portal?</li> <li>- When will the development and implementation contract be put out to tender?</li> <li>- When is work anticipated to start and finish on this portal?</li> <li>• How will the Government's new FTA portal differ from existing tariff finder tools on AusTrade's website? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How does it compare to the Malaysia-Australia FTA online tool launched on 1 August 2013?</li> <li>- And, how does it compare to the ASEAN Tariff Finder?</li> <li>- What were the costs associated to establish these tools?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How do exporters currently find the best tariff for their products in the list of Australia's top 10 export destinations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What would be the additional cost to include all top 10 partners in the tariff finder portal (other than Malaysia or the ASEAN countries who have an existing FTA linked tariff finder)?</li> <li>- What countries were including in the portal scoping analysis?</li> <li>- When will additional FTA partner countries be added to the portal?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please provide details of the Government's FTA promotional seminars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where are they to be held;</li> <li>- How many DFAT/AusTrade staff have/will attend;</li> <li>- What are the key outcomes/objectives of the seminars;</li> <li>- How are outcomes assessed/monitored/reported?</li> <li>- What are the costs associated with each seminar?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please describe the Government's on-line FTA promotional activities, including current and planned on-line promotional activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the view-rate of current on-line promotional activities?</li> <li>- Are they considered successful? If so, on what basis?</li> <li>- How are they tracked?</li> <li>- What are the associated costs?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is key note speaking at trade or other seminars/conferences part of the Department's promotional or other activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please list all key note speaking by senior DFAT personnel on trade related aspects in the past 12 months, as well as future scheduled events.</li> <li>- How are the engagements arranged?</li> <li>- What are the associated costs to the Department of such engagements,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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				<p>including staff preparation and attendance time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FTA outreach program is to include “<i>enhanced help-desk support, a grants program and training, in addition to a promotional campaign.</i>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please provide details of the help-desk support, including staffing, costs and location.</li> <li>Please provide details of the grants program and training.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
142	DFAT	Wong	China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On what date was the official Chinese version of the text approved?</li> <li>What were the costs associated with the official ChAFTA signing luncheon and related events on 17 June 2015? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please provide a guest list for the luncheon. Who prepared and approved the guest list?</li> </ul> </li> <li>What are the Department’s costs associated with ChAFTA for the 2014/15 financial year?</li> <li>What new committee organisation and participation and other activities will need to be undertaken by the Department during the first year of implementation of ChAFTA. Please detail, including nature of activity, staffing and costs.</li> <li>When did the Government commission the CIE report into the three North Asian free trade agreements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the costs associated with the commissioning of this study? Please detail.</li> <li>Was this study subject to tender? If not why not?</li> <li>Did the CIE have access to the text of ChAFTA? If so, on what date was it provided?</li> <li>How many drafts of the study were presented to Government?</li> <li>When was the final report presented to Government?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Please outline the treaty implementation process in China. When is it expected that China will be ready to exchange Diplomatic Notes indicating it is ready for ChAFTA to enter into force?</li> <li>What will be the status of the 1988 China-Australia bilateral treaty on investments once ChAFTA comes into force?</li> <li>Will there be any benefits to Australian under the MFN provisions in KAFTA that flow from the signing of the Korea-China FTA? Please describe.</li> <li>Will be there any benefits to China under the MFN provisions in KAFTA that flow from the signing of the Korea-China FTA? Please describe.</li> <li>If ChAFTA comes into force prior to the Korea-China FTA, will there be an MFN impacts? If so, please describe.</li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15

143	DFAT	Wong	<b>Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a status update on negotiations between Australia and India on the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.</li> <li>• The eighth round of negotiations is expected to be held in June/July 2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the actual date and place of these negotiations?</li> <li>- Who will attend on behalf of Australia?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please provide a summary of the submissions received to date by DFAT in relation to this agreement.</li> <li>• Will the negotiations be completed by the end of 2015? What date are the parties working towards?</li> <li>• In answer to Question on Notice No.109 from the Additional Estimates 2015, DFAT advises that the “key areas of interest and sensitivity include labour mobility, investment and FIRB thresholds.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please elaborate on each of these areas.</li> <li>- What type of labour mobility is India seeking?</li> <li>- Will Australia reserve policy space for labour market testing? If not, why not?</li> <li>- Is Australia proposing similar investment and FIRB thresholds as it recently committed to with China, Japan and Korea? If not, please explain.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
144	DFAT	Wong	<b>Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has any progress been made on this Agreement since the small group official discussion in November 2014? If so, please describe.</li> <li>• Has progress on this agreement been affect by developments in diplomatic relations between the two countries this year? Please explain.</li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
145	DFAT	Wong	<b>Australian Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the status of negotiations on this agreement?</li> <li>• When did the Government determine to prioritise the negotiations on this FTA?</li> <li>• In relation to Minister Robb’s visit to the Gulf States from 11-16 April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who from Australia accompanied the Minister?</li> <li>- What were the key outcomes?</li> <li>- When will FTA negotiations recommence?</li> <li>- What were the costs of this trip?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are there any planned upcoming discussions or meetings concerning the FTA negotiations? If so, please describe where, when and who will attend.</li> <li>• What type of investment arrangement or agreement is the Government proposing or considering with various Gulf States? Please describe.</li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In DFAT’s first Business Envoy publication (May 2015), there is an article entitled “What is Islamic Finance?”, which states that “Australia is well positioned to meet this growing demand by offering suitable Islamic finance investments.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is Australia’s policy on Islamic finance?</li> <li>- What type of investments would Australia consider offering? Or what investments in Australia would be suitable for Islamic finance?</li> <li>- Please outline the legal framework for Islamic finance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
146	DFAT	Wong	Other FTA negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the Government or the Department had any meetings or made any progress on a potential FTA with EU? If so please detail.</li> <li>• Is the Government considering the feasibility or commencing negotiations on a free trade agreement, economic partnership (or the like) with any other country? If so, please detail.</li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
147	DFAT	Wong	Transpacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)	<p>A. What is the current status of negotiations on the TPP?</p> <p>B. What was the outcome of the most recent Chief Negotiator’s meetings held in Guam in May?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who attended on behalf of Australia?</li> <li>- What were the Department’s costs relating to this meeting?</li> </ul> <p>C. How many remaining chapters are yet to be closed? What are they?</p> <p>D. In relation to the list of closed chapters provided by DFAT in answer to Question on Notice no.112(1) from Additional Estimates please provide an overview of the objectives, purpose and impact of these chapters; especially chapters headed “Development”, and “Temporary Entry”.</p> <p>E. What is the Government or DFAT doing to promote the benefits of the TPP?</p> <p>F. Please provide details of the benefits to Australia of a concluded TPP, including benefits to the economy and jobs?</p> <p>G. Please provide details of the disadvantages to Australia of a concluded TPP, including disadvantages to the economy and jobs, and any trade distortion effects?</p> <p>H. Please provide details of the opportunities and risks to Australia of entering the TPP?</p> <p>I. Please provide details of the opportunities and risks to Australia of not being a member of any concluded TPP?</p> <p>J. What communications strategy and initiatives does DFAT have for explaining and responding to concerns about TPP?</p> <p>K. Are there any communications staff employed in DFAT’s trade divisions or its office of Trade negotiations? If so, how many and what are their roles?</p>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15



				<p>L. What market access outcomes have been achieved for Australia’s sugar industry under the TPP? Please describe.</p> <p>M. What market access outcomes have been achieved for Australia’s rice industry under the TPP? Please describe</p> <p>N. What sectors are excluded from improved market access under the TPP. Please describe and explain.</p> <p>O. Has Australia agreed to the inclusion of ISDS provisions in the TPP? If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why?</li> <li>- Do the provisions apply between Australia and existing FTA partners that do not have ISDS provisions, such as Australia and the US, NZ or Japan?</li> <li>- Is the ISDS provision similar to those provisions included in KAFTA or ChAFTA? If not, what model was used? What are the differences?</li> <li>- Does Australia have special non-conforming (exclusion) measures from the application of the Investment Chapter? If not, why not. If so, please list. Are there other categories that require exclusion, such as labour and environmental measures (changes to the EPA)?</li> </ul> <p>P. Would an ISDS provision in the TPP activate the ISDS reconsideration review trigger in JAEPA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If Australia does not have an ISDS mechanism with some TPP members under separate bilateral agreements, but there is an applicable ISDS provision in the TPP, what applies? That is, will the ISDS provision in the TPP override and be applicable between say Australia and Japan or Australia and NZ or Australia and USA?</li> <li>- If there is an ISDS provision in the TPP and two member countries have an ISDS provision in a separate bilateral, but the language is different, which one applies?</li> </ul> <p>Q. Please provide an update on the Department’s costs incurred relating to the TPP negotiations.</p> <p>R. How many DFAT personnel are working on the TPP, broken down on a full time or part time basis?</p> <p>S. Has there been any change of personnel working on the TPP over the past year? If so, please detail.</p> <p>T. Are any staff with communications experience working on the TPP?</p>			
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148	DFAT	Wong	<b>Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership</b>	<p>A. Please provide a status update on the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.</p> <p>B. The 6<sup>th</sup> RCEP negotiation round was held in India in December 2014. When and where are the next negotiation rounds, including any subgroup rounds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who will attend these meetings on behalf of Australia?</li> </ul> <p>C. Are the parties still working towards completing RCEP by the end of 2015?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If yes, how realistic is this goal?</li> </ul> <p>D. Both India and Australia are members of RCEP. Does it make sense to negotiate a separate bilateral FTA between these two countries, which FTA has the same negotiation conclusion timeframe (ie, the end of this year)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If there are any inconsistencies between the resulting FTAs, which one will prevail?</li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
149	DFAT	Wong	<b>Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific concept (under APEC)</b>	<p>A. At the APEC Trade Ministers meeting in Boracay Islands Philippines on 23-24 May 2015, what progress was made on the “Collective Strategic Study” that will be used to crystallise the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please provide an overview of this Study.</li> <li>- Who is undertaking the study?</li> <li>- Who from Australia is participating?</li> <li>- The study is due by end of 2016. Will drafts and updates on study be released before then?</li> </ul> <p>B. How many DFAT personnel are working on this FTAAP concept?</p> <p>C. What is DFAT’s outlook for this FTAAP? Where does it fit in the priority list? Is it true that this FTAAP is taking a significant back seat to the TPP and because of the contest between the US and China for markets and leadership in Asia, as Joshua Meltzer predicts: “we should not expect an FTAAP anytime soon, despite its clear economic benefits”? [Dr. Joshua Meltzer, Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institute, “From the Trans-Pacific Partnership to a free trade agreement of the Asia-Pacific?” 7 May 2015.]</p>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
150	DFAT	Wong	<b>Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus)</b>	<p>A. Please provide a status update on this agreement, including the number of closed chapters, open chapters and sensitive areas?</p> <p>B. It is also reported that “the unwillingness of Australia and New Zealand to agree to include opportunities for seasonal workers in the deal has caused friction”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can DFAT explain this ‘friction’ and the difference between negotiating parties. What is Australia’s position?</li> <li>- Can you describe the current Pacific Seasonal Worker Program and any changes being considered under PACER Plus?</li> <li>- Is there equality of treatment amongst nations in terms of Australia’s current seasonal work visas. If not, who has preference and why?</li> <li>- Did Australia recently make additional concessions under ChAFTA</li> </ul>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15

				<p>for working holiday visas? Is the same of similar concession being considered for Pacific Islander countries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What level of workers' safeguards and regulation will apply to any seasonal worker program under PACER-Plus?</li> <li>- What compliance and monitoring will be in place?</li> </ul> <p>C. Is there any reason the draft text cannot be released?</p> <p>D. Has DFAT undertaken an economic impact assessment? If so, please provide. If not, why not?</p> <p>E. What would be the key economic outcomes for Australia from this regional agreement?</p> <p>F. Is the agreement balanced between the parties? Will it be mutually beneficial?</p> <p>G. Will the agreement support and create jobs in all member countries?</p> <p>H. When is the next negotiation round? Where will it be held and who will attend for Australia?</p> <p>I. Are the parties working towards concluding the agreement by the middle of this year? If not, when.</p> <p>J. Is it feasible that the agreement could come into effect in 2016?</p> <p>K. What are DFAT's costs associated with negotiation of this agreement?</p>			
<b>151</b>	<b>DFAT</b>	<b>Wong</b>	<b>WTO Doha Round</b>	<p>A. What is the status of development of the post-Bali work programme?</p> <p>B. Will the programme be agreed by 31 July 2015?</p> <p>C. Please provide a draft of the program.</p> <p>D. Who will be attending the Nairobi Ministerial in December 2015?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there an agenda or work program for these meetings? If so, please describe.</li> <li>- What preparatory work is DFAT undertaking towards this Ministerial?</li> </ul> <p>E. A new report by the Peterson Institute for International Economics entitled "<i>Drift to Deals: advancing the WTO agenda</i>" was launched on the margins of the OECD Forum in Paris on 2 June 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has the Department received this report? If not, will the Department review and consider this report?</li> <li>- The report outlines a "Grand Bargain" plan in order to restore the WTO as a central negotiating forum. Amongst many other things, it includes a call for advanced countries to make serious concessions on agriculture, including duty free, quota-free market access to Least Developed Countries. Have advanced countries such as US, Japan, Australia and NZ moved towards this direction in the TPP, or other regional negotiations?</li> <li>- The report also calls for WTO constitutional changes – such as developing countries to agree that new plurilateral agreements can be added to the WTO framework without the unanimous consent of all 161 WTO</li> </ul>	<b>Written Q</b>	<b>31/07/15</b>	<b>13/08/15</b>

				members, and even without three quarters majority approval. Have such constitutional changes been proposed previously? Does Australia have an approach or leadership role on constitutional change that could enhance the productivity of the WTO? If so, please describe.			
152	DFAT	Wong	<b>Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)</b>	<p>A. In answer to Question on Notice no.120 from Additional Estimates 2015, DFAT advised that TPP and TiSA will be “complementary and consistent”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the text be the same in relation to Services? If not, how will inconsistencies be resolved? Which document would apply?</li> </ul> <p>B. Please provide a status update on this Agreement, including progress and sensitive issues.</p> <p>C. Australia will chair the 11<sup>th</sup> round of TiSA in Geneva from 6-10 July 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who will attend the next for Australia?</li> <li>- What specific area and type of progress will Australian be seeking to progress at this round as chair?</li> </ul> <p>D. What is the status of the Department’s public consultations on this agreement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who has been consulted to date?</li> <li>- How many submissions have been received?</li> <li>- What is the nature of these submissions?</li> <li>- Are there more submissions in support or opposition to this agreement?</li> </ul> <p>E. Please outline how a concluded TiSA will affect Australian jobs, businesses and community?</p> <p>F. Would a concluded TiSA prevent or inhibit an Australian government from directly delivering any public services or providing certain services through public control?</p> <p>G. Could issues proposed for the agreement impose a permanent restriction of the ability of future Australian governments to regulate Australian worker safety, Australian consumer protections or the protection of the Australian natural environment? If so, please explain.</p> <p>H. What are the Department’s costs associated with negotiations of this agreement for the 2014-2015 financial year?</p> <p>I. Is there a concluding date negotiators are working towards for this agreement?</p>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15

153	DFAT	Wong	<b>Agreement on Environmental Goods</b>	<p>A. Please provide a status update on negotiations on the Agreement on Environmental Goods.</p> <p>B. When and where are the next rounds of negotiations? Who will attend for Australia?</p> <p>C. What is the estimated economic, environmental and social impact for Australia of this agreement?</p> <p>D. What are the Department's costs associated with negotiations of this agreement for the 2014-2015 financial year?</p>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
154	DFAT	Wong	<b>WTO – Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)</b>	<p>A. Please describe the process for Australia to now accede to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the time frame?</li> <li>- Will there be any required implementing legislation? If so, please describe.</li> </ul> <p>B. Which other WTO member countries have, or are expect to, accede to the GPA? Please detail, including dates.</p> <p>C. In relation to the Government's call for submissions on the GPA, which closed on 30 January 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How many submissions were received?</li> <li>- Who made submissions?</li> <li>- What issues were raised?</li> <li>- When will the submissions be available on DFAT's website?</li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
155	DFAT	Wong	<b>APEC – APEC meetings</b>	<p>A. Who attended the APEC Trade Ministers meeting in Borary Philippines in May 2015?</p> <p>B. Who attended the Business Delegation prior to the APEC meetings with Minister Robb?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How were these business representatives invited?</li> </ul> <p>C. What were the Department's costs of the APEC meeting and the Business Delegation?</p> <p>D. What were the key outcomes of the meetings for Australia?</p>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
156	DFAT	Wong	<b>Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)</b>	<p>A. Since DFAT's response to question on notice no.116 from Additional Estimates, please provide a further update on progress and activities by Australia in its final year as IORA chair.</p> <p>B. Please provide details to the progress and activities of the Working Group on Trade and Investment.</p> <p>C. Please provide details to the progress and activities of the Business Forum, as well as list of any Australian business members or participants.</p> <p>D. For the duration of Australia's chair of IORA, please detail the Department's costs.</p>	Written Q	23/09/15	15/10/15

157	Efic	Wong	<b>Export Finance Investment Corporation (EFIC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How has EFIC implemented the Minister's recent statement of expectations to focus on SMEs? Please describe.</li> <li>In answer to Question on Notice no.77 from prior Additional Estimates relating to staff numbers, EFIC has provided tables that show there has been approximately 10% increase in staff numbers from March 2014 to March 2015 (total of 87.4 in 2014 to 96.6 in 2015). Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne have all had increases in their staff numbers, including SME teams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What has been the performance of the extra staff levels at EFIC?</li> <li>Has there been a direct correlation between increased SME staff in other capitals with SME business in those capitals and corresponding States? If so, please describe. If not, why not?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
158	Efic	Ludwig	<b>Non-Australian Citizens Employed by the Department/Agency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the Department/Agency's policy with regard to hiring non-Australian citizens?</li> <li>Does the agency have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) policy? If yes, please provide a summary.</li> <li>How does the Department/Agency determine whether a person is a non-Australian citizen?</li> <li>How many staff who were not Australian Citizens have been hired by the Department/Agency since the Federal Election in September, 2013? Please break the numbers down by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levels at which they are employed</li> <li>Immigration Status (Visa)</li> <li>Cultural Background</li> <li>Linguistic Background</li> <li>How many were hired to satisfy CALD targets?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15
159	Efic	Ludwig	<b>Departmental Dispute Resolution</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?</li> <li>Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).</li> <li>Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.</li> <li>When the contract with the firm commenced.</li> <li>When the contract with the firm will expire.</li> <li>Why the firm was selected to provide the service.</li> <li>Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.</li> </ol> </li> <li>How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?</li> <li>Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list</li> </ol>	Written Q	31/07/15	13/08/15

			<p>them, please include:</p> <p>(a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).</p> <p>(b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.</p> <p>(c) When the contract with the firm commenced.</p> <p>(d) When the contract with the firm will expire.</p> <p>(e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.</p> <p>(f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.</p>			
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