

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 1

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji Facility

Question on Notice

Page 107

Senator Gallacher

Question

Senator GALLACHER: So, with this Fiji situation, it has gone out for tender, and there will be a selection process shortly?

Mr Sloper: That is right.

Senator GALLACHER: Is there a time line for that?

Mr Sloper: I would have to take that on notice, but I expect it to conclude soon.

Answer

A call for Expressions of Interest for the Fiji Program Support Facility was advertised on AusTender in May 2016. A detailed request for tender will be released early-mid September 2016. We hope to notify tenderers of the outcome of the selection process in November and have a contract in place by the end of the month. Our aim is for implementation of the Facility to begin by early 2017.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 2

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question on Notice

Page: 108

Senator Gallacher

Question

Senator GALLACHER: Can we have an updated version of the committed and contracted funds table for our aid program?

Mr Wood: I do not have a copy with me. At this current point in time I think we have expensed and committed about 80 per cent of the aid budget for this financial year. Obviously, for the future financial years, we are just adjusting that, based on the budget.

Senator GALLACHER: But you do have a table of committed and contracted funds? You would have a list or a table, not in your pocket at the moment, but—

Mr Wood: Yes.

Senator GALLACHER: We would appreciate it greatly if we could get a copy of that prior to your leaving here, because otherwise we are going to have to wait until August or thereabouts to get a look at it. If we could get a copy of committed and contracted funds, that would be much appreciated, if that is possible.

Mr Wood: It would be possible for the current financial year. For the future years we are going through a review of those allocations based on the budget that was handed down Tuesday night. We are in consultations with program areas from Wednesday morning regarding the future commitments. The information is still being worked on.

...

Mr McDonald: To clarify, we cannot do that across the forward estimates because we have just had the budget handed down. We can certainly do it for this financial year.

Senator GALLACHER: We will drop the forward estimates part if we can get a snapshot in time of what has been committed and contracted.

Mr Wood: Yes, that is fine.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Budget Estimates 2016, 6 May 2016

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Answer

Below is the table that represents the committed and contracted funds as at 6 May 2016.

DFAT Country and Regional Programs - 6 May 2016

	2015-16				
	2015-16 Estimated Outcome (\$m)	Expenses as at 6.5.16 (\$m)	Contracted obligations as at 6.5.16 \$m	Expenses and contracted obligations as at 6.5.16 \$m	Percentage committed as at 6.5.16
Papua New Guinea	471.00	328.25	103.27	431.52	91.62%
Solomon Islands	93.20	54.09	26.94	81.03	86.95%
Vanuatu	43.10	29.51	10.15	39.66	92.02%
Samoa	23.60	13.02	6.21	19.23	81.49%
Fiji	50.30	32.81	9.68	42.49	84.48%
Tonga	17.60	10.50	2.36	12.86	73.09%
Nauru	21.20	14.24	4.10	18.34	86.52%
Kiribati	20.20	14.18	4.49	18.67	92.42%
Tuvalu	6.60	2.41	2.52	4.93	74.66%
Cook Islands	1.90	1.90	-	1.90	99.85%
Niue and Tokelau	1.80	1.80	-	1.80	100.00%
North Pacific	5.20	3.41	0.27	3.68	70.84%
Pacific Regional	176.90	129.69	35.24	164.93	93.23%
Pacific	932.60	635.82	205.23	841.05	90.18%
Indonesia	313.90	230.32	82.91	313.22	99.78%
Vietnam	61.40	55.47	5.90	61.37	99.95%
Philippines	68.40	51.71	10.87	62.58	91.49%
Timor-Leste	70.00	57.72	11.07	68.79	98.27%
Cambodia	62.40	50.09	11.13	61.22	98.11%
Myanmar	53.80	31.68	14.32	46.00	85.49%
Laos	24.20	18.56	5.63	24.19	99.97%
Mongolia	6.40	4.67	1.52	6.19	96.75%
East Asia Regional	39.70	31.07	6.08	37.15	93.58%
East Asia	700.20	531.29	149.42	680.71	97.22%
Afghanistan	83.00	77.64	2.12	79.76	96.10%
Bangladesh	42.10	40.83	1.20	42.04	99.85%
Bhutan	3.80	2.96	0.44	3.40	89.57%
Sri Lanka	20.10	16.01	2.31	18.31	91.12%
Maldives	3.30	2.09	0.17	2.26	68.44%
Nepal	16.60	12.99	0.60	13.60	81.91%
Pakistan	48.80	37.24	5.03	42.27	86.61%
South and West Asia Regional	20.30	11.74	7.97	19.71	97.11%
South and West Asia	237.90	201.49	19.85	221.35	93.04%
Sub-Saharan Africa	31.80	25.10	3.90	28.99	91.18%
Sub-Saharan Africa	31.80	25.10	3.90	28.99	91.18%
North Africa and the Middle East	93.50	67.00	-	67.00	71.66%
Palestinian Territories	20.50	3.93	15.18	19.11	93.22%
North Africa and the Middle East	114.00	70.93	15.18	86.11	75.54%
Cross Regional Programs	316.80	232.53	61.36	293.90	92.77%
Total	2,333.30	1,697.16	454.95	2,152.11	

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 3

Program: DFAT

Topic: InnovationXchange

Question on Notice

Page: 110

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: Is Bjorn Lomborg still on the innovationXchange advisory committee?

Mr McDonald: He is on the Innovation Reference Group, yes.

Senator McEWEN: When did the department last engage with him to receive advice?

Mr McDonald: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

At the International Reference Group meeting held on 25 September 2015.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 4

Program: DFAT

Topic: LA Fashion Week

Question on Notice

Page: 119

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator Brandis: Are these really the great issues on which the future of the nation depends, Senator McEwen—what designer dress the minister wore to a function?

Senator McEWEN: She did wear a Johanna Johnson dress to the Australian American Association's gala dinner and the Canberra Midwinter Ball last year. When was the decision of the consul general to recommend Johanna Johnson as one of the designers to be showcased at LA Fashion Week made? When was that decision made by the consul general?

Dr Hammer: I am not sure. We would have to take that on notice. But I would emphasise that it was not the consul general that made the decision; it was made-

Answer

The Consul-General recommended a number of Australian designers to the organisers of LA Fashion Week. Ms Johnson was one of the recommended designers.

Decisions on G'Day USA events are made by the Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles in consultation with the G'Day USA Steering Committee and other stakeholders as required. Decisions on which designers would be showcased at LA Fashion Week were made at a meeting of the G'Day USA Steering Committee on 7 August 2015.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 5

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fashion diplomacy

Question on Notice

Page: 120

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: I understand that you do not have the answer to the question about what designer the foreign minister wore at the showcase runway or at the reception, but we know that a Johanna Johnson dress was displayed there. Do you know who wore it, or was it worn by a dummy?

Dr Hammer: I am sorry, I do not know. I will have to take that on notice.

Answer

Johanna Johnson gowns were worn by three models during a reception which followed the G'Day USA Fashion Showcase at no cost to the Australian Government. Ms Bishop wore a Zhivago dress to the LA Fashion Week Showcase runway event.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 6

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Travel

Question on Notice

Page: 121

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: Explain to me the process for the foreign minister to have access to VIP aircraft. So she needs to visit a country; who does she make the submission for access to a VIP aircraft to?

Ms Logan: Usually the process is the foreign minister's office would contact the Minister for Defence's office, and then it will ultimately be a decision for the Prime Minister.

Senator McEWEN: How many applications for use of a VIP aircraft has the foreign minister made since she has been in that portfolio?

Ms Logan: How many applications? I would have to take that on notice. I do not know exactly.

Senator McEWEN: How many requests for use of a VIP aircraft for the foreign minister to undertake her duties have been refused by the Prime Minister's office?

Ms Logan: I do not know, Senator; again, I can find out for you.

Answer

DFAT is not involved in the SPA use approval process, which is managed between ministerial offices.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 7

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question on Notice

Page: 122

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: Good. Have any requests to use a VIP aircraft for the foreign minister's duties been refused or denied by the Prime Minister's office?

Ms Logan: Not that I am aware of, but I could not be absolutely sure.

Senator McEWEN: When a refusal is made or access denied by the Prime Minister's office for use of a VIP aircraft, is a reason given to the foreign minister?

Mr Varghese: Ms Logan has indicated that typically the department is not directly involved at the point at which the availability of a VIP aircraft is explored by the foreign minister's office. These are issues that are handled office to office, and so if you have a series of questions about what did or did not happen and how many times the VIP aircraft was requested, how many times it was agreed and how many times it was refused, we would have to get that information from the foreign minister's office. It is not information that the department routinely has.

Senator McEWEN: I am asking you to get that information.

Mr Varghese: Whether we can do that, we will.

Senator Brandis: We will take those questions on notice, Senator McEwen.

Answer

DFAT is not involved in the SPA use approval process, which is managed between ministerial offices.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 8

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question on Notice

Page: 122

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: When you are gathering that information, could you also advise if there have been any occasions where the foreign minister has applied to the Prime Minister's office to use a VIP aircraft for her portfolio responsibilities and because of a late decision by the Prime Minister's office has had to book commercial airfares?

Senator Brandis: We will take that question on notice too. That may, of course, involve an inquiry of the Prime Minister's office as well.

Answer

DFAT is not involved in the SPA use approval process, which is managed between ministerial offices.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 9

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fashion diplomacy

Question on Notice

Page: 123

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: Going back to Johanna Johnson, did the foreign minister write a letter to the Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles either recommending or suggesting that Johanna Johnson and her fashion be one of the Australian companies for LA Fashion Week?

Senator Brandis: We will take all questions in relation to Johanna Johnson on notice.

Senator McEWEN: I am sure you know the answer to this question.

Senator Brandis: The question is taken on notice.

...

Senator McEWEN: I know what you told me. Alright, if you are taking on notice whether such a communication exists can you also take on notice whether, as well as endorsing Johanna Johnson, there were any other designers recommended, suggested, endorsed, or otherwise communicated to the Consul-General in Los Angeles by the foreign minister?

Senator Brandis: We will take that on notice.

Answer

No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 10

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diplomatic Corps visit to Tasmania

Question on Notice

Page: 126

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: Were any opposition, Greens or independent Tasmanian MPs or senators in attendance?

Ms Sachs: I would have to take that question on notice.

Senator McEWEN: You must know, Ms Sachs.

Ms Sachs: I am sorry; I cannot answer that question.

Answer

Invitations were sent from the Foreign Minister's office for the opening dinner and the closing lunch. They did not attend.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 11

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diplomatic Corps visit to Tasmania

Question on Notice

Page: 126

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: the invitations for this. Were opposition, independent or Greens senators or members invited to attend—

Ms Sachs: There were invitations—

Senator McEWEN: whatever it was called—the Tasmanian showcase?

Ms Sachs: There were invitations for the Premier's event. There were invitations extended by the relevant Premier's office. Certainly, for one of the other events, there were invitations sent out by the minister's office.

CHAIR: To all federal members and senators from Tasmania, Ms Sachs?

Ms Sachs: That went from the minister's office.

CHAIR: To all federal members and senators from Tasmania, of any political party?

Ms Sachs: I do not have a list in front of me, sorry, and I cannot remember.

Senator Brandis: That is the question we have taken on notice, Chair.

Answer

Yes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 12

Program: DFAT

Topic: Special Envoy for Human Rights

Question on Notice

Page: 129

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: I want now to ask a couple of questions about the Special Envoy for Human Rights. In answer to my questions on notice you said:

A formal letter from the Foreign Minister outlining the terms and conditions of the appointment was provided to Mr Ruddock.

That is the answer. Can the committee have a copy of the letter please?

Mr Varghese: Let me take that on notice. It is the Foreign Minister's letter so I think I need to do her the courtesy of conveying your request to her.

Answer

Please see attached pdf document.



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Member for Berowra
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear *Philip* Mr Ruddock

I write to appoint you as Australia's Special Envoy on Human Rights.

As Special Envoy, you will play an active role in Australia's candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2018-20 term, with a focus on advancing our HRC campaign priorities of good governance, freedom of expression, gender equality, the rights of indigenous peoples, and national human rights institutions. You will also promote our broader human rights agenda, including abolition of the death penalty.

As you know, our campaign for a HRC seat is contested – we are competing with France and Spain for two available seats. The Special Envoy will advocate our claims at key international events and in select countries, including in Africa. Your advocacy will complement the work of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officers in particular countries and regions, and also the efforts of our permanent representatives in Geneva and New York in cultivating relationships with HRC members.

While you are a Member of Parliament, you will not receive any remuneration as Special Envoy but DFAT will reimburse the costs of travel and other expenses incurred by you in the performance of the agreed duties as Special Envoy, in accordance with applicable legislative requirements. This appointment will commence with immediate effect and continue until terminated by notification in writing from me, or by prior agreement. In relation to any part of the term of appointment that might occur after you cease to be a Member of Parliament, further consideration will be given to appropriate arrangements.

I look forward to working with you as Special Envoy for Human Rights.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bishop
Julie Bishop
24 FEB 2016

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 13

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question on Notice

Page: 133

Senator McEwen

Question

Mr Varghese: Let me finish the answer. We worked very closely with him to put numbers around those recommendations. Those numbers were reflected in his final report and those numbers were shared with the Department of Finance.

Senator McEWEN: But we cannot have the final report because it is cabinet in confidence?

Mr Varghese: Correct.

Senator McEWEN: Can tell me how much of the \$50.5 million predicted savings will arise from implementation of this measure to remove consular assistance?

Mr Varghese: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

Approximately \$2.279 million over 4 years from 2016-17.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 14

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 133

Senator McEwen

Question

Mr Philp: Our expectation is that, as the secretary said, we will put it to an incoming government for use in the next consular strategy period, which will be 2017-19.

Senator McEWEN: Does it require a legislative implementation?

Mr Philp: I would have to take that on notice. I doubt it.

Answer

No. As there is no legislative framework for the provision of consular assistance, there is no requirement for legislative action to implement this change in policy.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 15

Program: DFAT

Topic: G'day USA

Question on Notice

Page: 138

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: Did you provide any advice to the minister's office in relation to the selection process?

Dr Hammer: I was not directly involved in any process.

Senator WONG: When I say you I mean the department, okay?

Dr Hammer: I know. What I was about to say is that G'Day USA a rather complicated piece of machinery and I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: You cannot tell us if the department provided any advice about the selection process for the Australian fashion showcase runway?

Dr Hammer: I cannot at the moment, no.

Senator WONG: Just to confirm: is the department aware of any correspondence from Ms Bishop in relation to the selection process sent to the consul general or any other party on this matter?

Dr Hammer: No, we are not aware of that. On that, I am reasonably confident that there was no such correspondence, but to be absolutely sure we would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: I assume the public reporting of that was put to you?

Mr Vaghese: Yes; there was an earlier question that referred to the media question.

Senator WONG: Just to be fair to you, the public reporting of the fact of the correspondence to Ms Lanyon was put to DFAT. So you are aware of that?

Mr Vaghese: Yes.

Senator WONG: If you could take that on notice, and also take on notice, if there is such a letter, could that be tabled, please?

Mr Vaghese: Certainly.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

See response to QoN 9.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 16

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular - Notarial Fees

Question on Notice

Page: 139

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: I am trying to get a sense of current fee levels, current demand et cetera.

Mr Philp: I am just going through my notes. I know that notarial fees have not risen for many years—I think 15 or 16 years.

Senator WONG: What are they currently? Do you have an existing fee structure? I am trying to get a sense of what sort of rise this is.

Mr Philp: I do not have that information to hand, I am sorry. I will have to take that on notice.

Answer

The current fee structure can be found at http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/cfr1990256/sch1.html

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 17

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP - Government procurement

Question on Notice

Page: 145

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: I am not asking a boffin question, because I am very bad IT as well; I am actually asking a policy question: what is the policy proposition in the TPP in relation to government procurement that the IT system will now have to be able to undertake?

Mr J Brown: The advice I have is that there are 42 entities that are receiving funding to upgrade their IT systems to support the greater transparency in the reporting procurements that are required under the TPP chapter.

Senator WONG: Could you repeat that?

Mr J Brown: All of it?

Senator WONG: Yes, I did not understand it.

Mr J Brown: I will try and be clearer: the funding is for 42 systems which are receiving this funding for the purpose of upgrading their IT systems to support the greater transparency and reporting of procurements that are required under the TPP. DFAT, for its part, is receiving funds to upgrade two of its systems: one for the former DFAT, and one for the former AusAID. I am told that the Department of Finance has comprehensive information on this.

Senator WONG: I am actually interested in the policy proposition that lies behind it, which is supporting greater transparency and reporting of procurement. Can someone explain to me, without getting into an incredibly long conversation about the TPP, what it is that the TPP requires us to be able to do that we do not currently do?

Mr J Brown: I am going to have to take that on notice to give you a comprehensive answer on that.

Answer

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement's Government Procurement Chapter will require certain Australian Government entities to report the basis for conducting a limited tender on AusTender. The list of Commonwealth entities for which this applies is available in Australia's Annex to Chapter 15 of the TPP.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 18

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sugar export marketing

Question on Notice

Page: 158

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: Has the government communicated with the Singaporean government as to the consistency of this legislation with the SAFTA? Has that been a subject discussed?

Mr J Brown: As I think I might have indicated in my last evidence, there have been written representations from the Singaporean government.

Senator WONG: And what has the government's response been?

Mr J Brown: The government's response was very much along the lines of what I have just said to you, which is that the matter is the subject of law now in Queensland and that the government is of a view that the party should be given the opportunity to reach a resolution.

Senator WONG: So, the government is saying: this is the law; you try to achieve a commercial resolution. Is that right?

Mr J Brown: Correct.

Senator WONG: Right. So, the government has not sought to engage with the Queensland government as to that legislation and the effect of that legislation?

Mr J Brown: I am not in a position to know comprehensively whether the government—

Senator WONG: I am only asking you—

Mr J Brown: I am not aware of that, no.

Senator McGrath: Perhaps we should take it on notice.

Answer

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has engaged the Queensland Government.

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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials have discussed in general terms the legislation with Queensland Government officials, as part of a broader outreach on trade and investment law issues.

Further questions regarding the Government's engagement with the Queensland Government should be referred to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and the Treasury.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 19

Program: DFAT

Topic: QoNs

Question on Notice

Page: 98

Senator McEwen

Question

Senator McEWEN: So the responses to the 175 questions taken on notice were provided by the department to the minister by 8 April but those responses were not provided to the committee until Tuesday, 3 May. Why were those answers sitting in the ministers' offices for 25 days?

Mr Varghese: I would have to seek a response from the relevant ministers.

Answer

Questions of this nature should be directed to Ministerial Offices.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 20

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question on Notice

Page: 99

Senator Gallacher

Question

Senator GALLACHER: So as far as records have been kept we are at a historical low. Is it incorrect to assert that the budget has been reduced by 30 per cent since the last election?

Mr McDonald: I would have to take that on notice unless Mr Wood has that. Certainly the budget that was implemented this year was consistent with the decision in MYEFO in 2014-15 and in terms of last year's budget as well, so there has been no further reduction.

Senator GALLACHER: Mr Wood, you are the chief financial officer of the department. It is a straightforward question: has the aid budget been reduced by 30 per cent since the last election?

Mr Wood: I do not have the information going back historically. As you know, we have been discussing at estimates some of the reductions from previous budgets, but I do not have anything that would allow me to confirm that 30 per cent figure. As Mr McDonald said, there were no new reduction measures in this year's budget.

Answer

Yes, comparing the current year budget to the estimates at the 2013 election.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 21

Program: DFAT

Topic: East Timor

Question on Notice

Page: 111

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: Mr Varghese, last estimates I put on notice a question about a briefing received by Ms Plibersek on East Timor, and the answer that came back confirmed that she had not received a detailed briefing on legal or technical issues associated with the boundary dispute. Can I clarify this. My understanding is that the Greater Sunrise gas field is located more closely to Indonesia than it is to East Timor.

Mr Varghese: I will have to take some advice on just what the distance of the boundaries are from Australia and East Timor.

Answer

The Greater Sunrise field is closer to Indonesia than to Timor-Leste or Australia. Approximately 80 per cent lies in an area of Australia's exclusive seabed jurisdiction, south of Australia's seabed boundary with Indonesia, with the remaining 20 per cent (the western portion) within the Joint Petroleum Development Area with Timor-Leste.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 22

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diplomatic - Diplomatic Corps visit to Tasmania

Question in Writing

Senator Bilyk

Question

1. Can the Minister please advise the Senate the total cost incurred by the Commonwealth in relation to the tour of Tasmania for international diplomats in April 2016?
2. Can the Minister please provide a copy of the guest list for this tour?
3. Can the Minister please provide a copy of the itinerary of this tour?
4. How many DFAT officials attended?
5. How many of the Minister's personal staff attended?
6. Can the Minister please advise the cost of air transport in relation to this tour, covering air transport for the entire touring party and broken down into separate figures for commercial flights and charter flights?
7. Can the Minister please advise the cost of ground transport in relation to this tour, covering ground transport for the entire touring party? What form(s) of ground transport were utilised by the touring party?
8. Can the Minister please advise the cost of accommodation in relation to this tour, covering accommodation for the entire touring party? At which hotels did the touring party stay? What category of room did the touring party occupy? What was the cost per room per night? How many rooms were occupied at each hotel?
9. Can the Minister please advise the cost of food and beverages in relation this tour, covering meals for the entire touring party? At which establishments did the touring party dine? Can a copy of the order of service or menu for any meals be provided? Can a list of food served at any meal please be provided together with itemised costs? Can a list of beverages served at any meal please be provided including the name and vintages of any wines or champagnes together with itemised costs? This should include without limitation the dinner at the Museum of New and Old Art.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

10. Can the Minister please advise whether the touring party visited any wineries? If so, what wineries did the touring party visit? Can a list of wines and champagnes served at wineries please be provided together with itemised costs?
11. Can the Minister please provide an itemised list of any other costs incurred in relation to this tour?
12. Can the Minister please advise the CN numbers for any Contract Notices published on Austender in relation to the diplomatic tour of Tasmania?
13. Was the Minister or her office briefed on this tour? If so, on what date(s) did this occur?
14. Who authorised the expenditure on this tour?
15. Is the Minister able to provide any photographs or video footage of this tour?

Answer

1. The department organises an annual visit by Canberra-based Heads of diplomatic missions (HOMs) to a regional centre to showcase the business and investment environment and to foster overseas networks. Eighty one HOMs participated, reflecting their strong interest in the broad array of economic opportunities on offer in Tasmania. This was the largest ever group to travel with an Australian Foreign Minister-led visit and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase Tasmania's rich arts and culture, innovative maritime and scientific industries, enterprising agricultural and local businesses and dynamic investment environment. The total cost of the 2016 Diplomatic Corps visit to Tasmania was \$124,673.90.
2. The department issued an invitation to all Canberra-based Heads of Mission. The following Heads of Mission and charge d'Affaires attended:
 1. Papua New Guinea (High Commissioner)
 2. Algeria (Ambassador)
 3. Argentina (Ambassador)
 4. Austria (Ambassador)
 5. Azerbaijan (Ambassador)
 6. Bangladesh (High Commissioner)
 7. Belarus (Ambassador)
 8. Belgium (Ambassador)
 9. Bosnia-Herzegovina (Ambassador)
 10. Botswana (High Commissioner)
 11. Brazil (Ambassador)
 12. Brunei Darussalam (Ambassador)

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13. Bulgaria (Ambassador)
14. Cambodia (Ambassador)
15. Canada (High Commissioner)
16. Chile (Ambassador)
17. Colombia (Ambassador)
18. Croatia (Ambassador)
19. Cuba (Ambassador)
20. Czech Republic (Ambassador)
21. Denmark (Ambassador)
22. Ecuador (Ambassador)
23. El Salvador (Ambassador)
24. Estonia (Ambassador)
25. Ethiopia (Ambassador)
26. European Union (Ambassador)
27. Fiji (High Commissioner)
28. Georgia (Ambassador)
29. Germany (Ambassador)
30. Ghana (High Commissioner)
31. Guatemala (Ambassador)
32. Hungary (Ambassador)
33. India (High Commissioner)
34. Indonesia (Ambassador)
35. Iran (Ambassador)
36. Iraq (Ambassador)
37. Ireland (Ambassador)
38. Italy (Ambassador)
39. Jordan (Charge d'Affaires)
40. Kenya (High Commissioner)
41. Kosovo (Ambassador)
42. Laos (Ambassador)
43. Lebanon (Charge d'Affaires)
44. Mauritius (High Commissioner)
45. Mexico (Ambassador)
46. Mongolia (Ambassador)
47. Morocco (Ambassador)
48. Myanmar (Ambassador)
49. Netherlands (Ambassador)
50. New Zealand (High Commissioner)
51. Norway (Ambassador)
52. Pakistan (High Commissioner)
53. Paraguay (Charge d'Affaires)
54. People's Republic of China (Charge d'Affaires)
55. Peru (Ambassador)
56. Philippines (Ambassador)

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57. Poland (Ambassador)
58. Portugal (Ambassador)
59. Qatar (Charge d'Affaires)
60. Romania (Ambassador)
61. Samoa (High Commissioner)
62. Saudi Arabia (Ambassador)
63. Serbia (Ambassador)
64. Slovak Republic (Ambassador)
65. Slovenia (Ambassador)
66. South Africa (High Commissioner)
67. Sri Lanka (High Commissioner)
68. Sweden (Ambassador)
69. Switzerland (Ambassador)
70. Thailand (Ambassador)
71. Tunisia (Ambassador)
72. Turkey (Ambassador)
73. Uganda (High Commissioner)
74. Ukraine (Ambassador)
75. United Kingdom (High Commissioner)
76. United States of America (Ambassador)
77. Uruguay (Ambassador)
78. Vanuatu (High Commissioner)
79. Venezuela (Ambassador)
80. Zambia (High Commissioner)
81. Zimbabwe (Ambassador)

3. The itinerary of this tour:

DAY 1 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

HOBART

	THURSDAY 28 APRIL
1715	Gather in Hotel Lobby to board coaches
1730	Depart Hotel
1800	Arrive MONA
1815	Welcome to Country
1830	Performance by Dewayne Everettsmith
1845	Official Photograph
1900	Curated tour of MONA
1930	Welcome dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister
2100	Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra
2130	Depart MONA
2200	Arrive Hotel

DAY 2 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

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HOBART

	FRIDAY 29 APRIL
0745	Gather in Hotel Lobby to board coaches
0800	Depart Hotel
0830	Arrive INCAT and Life Raft Systems Australia
0835	Official Photograph, followed by tours in rotating groups
1030	Depart INCAT and Life Raft Systems Australia
1100	Arrive Frogmore Creek Winery for Tasmanian Showcase
1230	Move to Premier's Lunch (same venue)
1230	Premier's Lunch
1430	Joint media conference
1500	Depart Frogmore Creek
1545	Arrive Antarctic Division
1545	Briefing on the Antarctic Gateway, with focus on Policy, Science, Logistics, Gateway elements in rotating groups
1715	Depart Antarctic Division
1800	Arrive Government House for reception hosted by the Governor
1930	Depart Government House (time TBC)
1945	Arrive Hotel
2000	Masterclass commences
2115	Return to Hotel by escort

DAY 3 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

LAUNCESTON

	SATURDAY 30 APRIL
0515	Gather in Hotel Lobby to board coaches with checked luggage
0530	Depart Hotel in Hobart with luggage on board
0800	Arrive Cataract Gorge, Launceston
0810	Rest break
0815	Briefing on the north of the state
0845	Guided tour of Cataract Gorge
0930	Depart Cataract Gorge
1000	Arrive UTAS Arts Theatre, Launceston
1030	Presentations and tour of Australian Maritime College facilities
1200	Depart Australian Maritime College
1230	Arrive Josef Chromy Wines
	Greet Australian Native Animals
1300	Lunch hosted by the Foreign Minister
1500	Depart Josef Chromy Wines
1530	Arrive Hotel

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DAY 2 SPOUSE EXCURSION

HOBART

	FRIDAY 29 APRIL
1045	Gather in Hotel Lobby
1100	Depart Hotel on foot
1115	Arrive TMAG, welcome and move to gallery
1130	Guided tour of TMAG Antarctic Gallery, including Q&A
1230	Move to Lunch venue
1245	Lunch
1345	Depart TMAG
1400	Arrive Hotel
1730	Gather in Hotel Lobby
1745	Depart Hotel
1800	Arrive Government House for reception hosted by the Governor
1930	Depart Government House
1945	Arrive Hotel
2000	Masterclass commences
2115	Return to Hotel by escort

DAY 3 SPOUSE EXCURSION

LAUNCESTON

	SATURDAY 30 APRIL
0745	Gather in Hotel Lobby to board coach with checked luggage
0800	Depart Hotel
1030	Arrive Entally Lodge for rest break
1055	Depart Entally Lodge
1100	Arrive Entally House for tour
1230	Depart Entally House for lunch at Entally Lodge
1340	Depart Entally Lodge
1400	Arrive Hotel

4. Eight DFAT officials attended, including the (then) Secretary of DFAT.
5. Five staff from the Ministers office attended.
6. Heads of Mission were responsible for their own air transport costs. The department did not charter any air transport for this visit.

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7. The total cost of ground transport for the entire touring party was \$36,805 (incl GST). This comprised coaches and minivans to transport the touring party.
8. Heads of Mission were responsible for their own accommodation costs. The majority of the touring party stayed at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart and the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston.

In accordance with the department’s travel policy, DFAT staff booked rooms at the same hotels through the Whole of Australian Government provider (AOT through QBT).

Approximately 95 rooms were occupied at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart by Heads of Mission and staff. We do not have details of the Heads of Mission who opted to stay at the Launceston Hotel Grand Chancellor.

9. The Premier’s lunch at Frogmore Creek Winery was paid for by the Tasmanian Government. A reception at Government House was paid for by Government House. The Commonwealth covered the following cost of food and beverages during the tour:

Event	Menu (food and beverages served)	Cost	Total cost
Welcome dinner at MONA	<p>On the tables Autumn garden – Mini gardens with edible soils, baby veg, herbs & flowers</p> <p>Entrée Rock pool – served in an abalone shell, Selection of raw & cooked Tasmanian seafood & shellfish, pickled veg, coastal greens, seaweeds, soy jelly, ponzu dressing</p> <p>Matched wine: Moorilla Muse Sauvignon Blanc</p> <p>Main (alternate drop) Slow cooked Cape Grimm beef fillet, truffle puree, mushroom textures, potato fondant, onion caramel, chicken liver parfait, crisp root vegetables, beef consommé gel</p> <p>Roast blue eye cod, potato mousseline croquet chip, lemon & tarragon pangritata, petit crab, & seaweed salad, samphire, oyster bavarois shells, pernod butter, burnt lemon</p>	The cost included venue hire and staff overheads	\$24,500 (inc GST)

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	<p>Matched wine: Moorilla Muse Cabernet Sauvignon and Moorilla Muse Pinot Gris</p> <p>Dessert Flavors of chocolate - Chocolate ganache, beetroot soil, chocolate truffle, green tea moss, hazelnut praline, pedro ximenez, honeycomb, crisp peals</p> <p>Matched beer: Moo Brew Dark Ale</p>		
Morning tea at the Basin Café, Cataract Gorge, Launceston	<p>Scones with jam, King Island cream and Duck River butter. Selection of individual egg and bacon mini quiches with tomato relish. Apple and pecan banana bread. Selection of sweet and savoury muffins. Spinach and fetta roulades. Freshly made egg, lettuce and mayo ribbon sandwiches. Fresh seasonal fruit plates. Variety of fruit yoghurts. Tea, coffee, fruit juice and water.</p>	<p>\$25.50 per person x 104</p> <p>The cost included venue hire</p>	<p>\$3,452 (inc GST)</p>
Concluding lunch at Josef Chromy wines	<p>Entrée Rannoch farm Quail, smoked mustard cream, pickles, brussels and walnut.</p> <p>Matched wine: 2015 Josef Chromy Chardonnay</p> <p>Main course Wild clover lamb shoulder, baked celeriac, dried olive and greens.</p> <p>Sides: chef's selection of 2 side dishes per table</p> <p>Matched wine: 2011 ZDAR Pinot Noir</p> <p>Dessert Caramel pear, liquorice, rhubarb, ginger snap ice cream</p> <p>Matched wine: 2015 Josef Chromy Botrytis Riesling</p>	<p>Three course set menu, including matched wines: \$110 per person x 110 guests</p> <p>Staff meals: Platters \$25 per person</p> <p>The cost included venue hire</p>	<p>\$15,510 (inc GST)</p>

10. The touring party visited MONA (where Moorilla wines were served) and Josef Chromy Wines. The alcoholic beverages served are outlined in the answer to question 9 above.

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The touring party attended a lunch hosted by the Premier of Tasmania at Frogmore Creek Winery.

11. Itemised list of other costs incurred in relation to this tour:

Item	Cost (inc GST)
Official Photographer	\$8,648.75
MONA - Welcome to Country – Dewayne Everettsmith performance	\$600.00
MONA - Welcome to Country – Indigenous elder	\$350.00
Native animal familiarisation	\$1,850.00
Gift for HOMs – Bridestowe Lavender Estate	\$2,495.90
Friday Spouse Excursion – Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), tour and venue hire	\$1,185.00
Friday Spouse Excursion – Catering	\$840.00
Saturday Spouse Excursion – Entally House tour and lunch	\$1,640.00
Additional Ambulance coverage	\$1,452.74
Hotel Grand Chancellor – hire of room for staff to work in on Thursday	\$300.00
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade expenditure for DFAT staff to coordinate the visit (stationery, name tags, administrative and travel costs)*	\$25,044.51

* Questions on costs borne by parliamentary staff are best directed to the Department of Finance.

12. The CN numbers for Contract Notices published on Austender are CN ID CN3340268, CN ID CN3340267 and CN3340269.

13. DFAT held weekly meetings and/or teleconferences with the Foreign Minister's Office from the beginning of February 2016.

14. The Chief of Protocol authorised expenditure for the Diplomatic Corps visit.

15. Photos are publicly available, including on social media platforms. There was no official video footage produced of the tour.