

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**  
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011  
Questions on Notice: AusAID

**Question No. 15**

**Senator Boswell** asked in writing

In relation to the funding given to Marie Stopes International Australia to supply abortion drugs to Marie Stopes International Mongolia:

- a) What is the protocol under which these abortion drugs will be administered or distributed in Mongolia?
- b) Will all use of these abortion drugs be in full accordance with the provisions of the 2001 Health Law on Abortion Care in Mongolia which requires that first trimester abortions only be carried out in safe medical facilities that have permission to perform abortions and with Ministry of Health Order A/220 under which abortions must be performed in medical facilities under safe conditions where the necessary equipment for management of complications must be available?
- c) How do these requirements relate to the claim on the Marie Stopes International Australia website at <http://www.mariestopes.org.au/how-we-help/where-we-work/mongolia>
- d) Mongolia is a sparsely populated country of 2.5 million people. The total fertility rate for 2005-2010 according to the United Nations World Population Prospects 2008 Revision was already below replacement level at 2.02 and projected (medium variant) to drop to 1.85 by 2015-2020 resulting in population growth virtually stopping (0.18%) by 2045-50. Why is AusAID helping fund the population stagnation of Mongolia?

**Answer:**

- a) Marie Stopes International Mongolia follows the protocol for medical abortion drugs as identified in Ministry of Health order No34 2009 and Mongolian standard protocol MNS 5488: 2005.
- b) Marie Stopes International Mongolia follows the requirements of Ministry of Health Order A/220 by distributing medical abortion commodities to clinical providers at both government and private facilities.
- c) Marie Stopes International Mongolia helps source higher quality commodities for clinical service providers in Mongolia. Supplies are distributed to providers who work in facilities approved by the Ministry of Health Order A/220. Reference on the Marie Stopes International Australia website to safe medical abortions outside of MSI clinics refers to these facilities and providers. Training to ensure providers are fully informed of the correct dosage and case management requirements are also provided to further

improve the quality of care for women seeking a safe termination of pregnancy.

- d) AusAID support for family planning and reproductive health services in Mongolia is designed to meet currently unmet needs of women and their partners for quality services and to reduce maternal deaths. AusAID does not provide assistance based on population targets.