

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

Question No.19

Senator Boswell asked in writing

Is it consistent with the August 2009 Guiding Principles for recipients, including IPPF, to expend funds on advocating for liberalisation of abortion laws in countries where abortion is illegal or restricted?

Answer:

AusAID's core funding agreement with IPPF stipulates that it will not use Australian aid funds to advocate with legislators for changes in national abortion laws.

The Guiding Principles reflect the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action, adopted by 179 governments in Cairo in 1994. Under the Programme of Action, abortion should in no case be promoted as a method of family planning, and in all cases provide for the humane treatment and counselling of women who have had recourse to abortion.

The focus of Australia's policy on reproductive health and family planning and the Guiding Principles is to reduce maternal deaths and the need for abortions by helping avoid unplanned pregnancies.