

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

Question No.30

Senator Trood asked in writing

- a) Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- c) How many have been granted or denied?
- d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

- a) Yes, The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, established under the Australia Information Commissioner Act 2010, provides advice to all agencies governed by the Freedom of Information Act, with respect to responding to FOI requests. This advice is captured primarily in the form of guidelines and other guidance available at www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines. Prior to the FOI reforms of 1 November 2010, FOI Guidelines for all Government agencies were issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and were used in responding to FOI requests which were submitted prior to 1 November 2010. They are available online at www.dpmmc.gov.au/foi/guidelines.cfm. AusAID also receives legal advice from time to time from the Australian Government Solicitor, on specific FOI matters.
- b) AusAID has received 21 FOI applications in the financial year 2010-11.
- c) Of the 21 FOI applications received in 2010-11, one application has been released in full, eight applications have been partially released, four applications have been resolved by releasing information to the applicant outside the formal FOI processes, two applications have been withdrawn and eight applications are pending resolution. None have been denied.
- d) No FOI applications have had conclusive certificates applied to them in the financial year 2010-11