



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Intelligence & Security

**Deputy Secretary**  
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DEPSEC I&S/OUT/2011/097

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear *Dr Dermody*,

At the Senate Estimates hearing on Tuesday 31 May, Senator Russell Trood provided copies of three Austender contract notes where departments had contracted out for the provision of security vetting services.

I did have the opportunity at the end of the session to clarify the issues with Senator Trood but we agreed that I should write to you to record that explanation. The details are as follows:

**Contract Notice CN347241 - Australian Taxation Office**

This contract was raised to pay Defence for work completed by the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency.

**Contract Notice CN299761 - Department of Finance and Deregulation**

This contract was raised in June 2010 to pay for security vetting services provided in the lead up and transition to the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency on 1 October 2010.

**Contract Notice CN364313 - Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency**

This contract was raised in February 2011 to pay an outstanding account for services which had been delivered prior to the establishment of the Australian Government Vetting Agency.

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Merchant**  
Deputy Secretary  
Intelligence and Security

/ June 2011