

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 1

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's trip to Washington 22 February 2012

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

When did Mr Rudd leave Australia for his last visit to Washington before resigning as Foreign Minister?

Answer

Mr Rudd departed Australia on 19 February 2012.

Question No. 2

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's Washington Visit February 2012 – Duration

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

What was the planned duration of the trip? And where was he visiting?

Answer

Mr Rudd was scheduled to depart Washington on 22 February and return to Australia on 26 February 2012. Mr Rudd had already visited Mexico and the USA and was scheduled to visit the UK, Tunisia and Malaysia.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
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Question No. 3

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's trip to Washington 22 February 2012 – Accommodation

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Where was he staying when he was in Washington?

Answer

Mr Rudd stayed at the Willard InterContinental Hotel while he was in Washington.

Question No. 4

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 22 February 2012

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

How many nights had been booked at the Willard Hotel for Mr Rudd and his party, and what was the cost associated?

Answer

Mr Rudd was booked for one night at the Willard Hotel.

Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Dates, destinations, the purpose and costs of all official overseas visits are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation* and its supporting information. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance web site.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 5

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 21-22 February 2012

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

What time did Mr Rudd give his press conference advising of his resignation as Foreign Minister?

Answer

The press conference started at about 1.30am (local Washington time), 5.30pm (local Canberra time) on 22 February 2012.

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Question No. 6

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 21-22 February 2012

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Senator Kroger

Question

When was the department advised that the then Foreign Minister was holding a press conference?

Answer

At about 10.45pm on 21 February (local Washington time), DFAT staff at post were asked by the Foreign Minister's media adviser to book a meeting room at the hotel.

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Question No. 7

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 21-22 February 2012

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Senator Kroger

Question

Who did he give that (Post booking of meeting room) advice to?

Answer

Mr Rudd's media adviser spoke to the Embassy's office manager for the Foreign Minister's visit.

Question No. 8

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 21-22 February 2012

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

- (A) What arrangements were made and what were the costs in booking the meeting room?*
- (B) What contingencies or extra resources were employed by the hotel?*

Answer

- (A) The meeting room was booked through the hotel duty manager. The cost was USD \$275.
- (B) Bookings for meeting rooms and associated equipment requests at short-notice are a matter of routine business for hotels.

We are not aware of any other contingencies or extra resources being provided by the hotel.

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Question No. 9

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 21-22 February 2012

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Senator Kroger

Question

Did Mr Beazley complete any meetings planned for Mr Rudd, which were scheduled after the resignation?

Answer

The Ambassador chaired a breakfast meeting on 22 February with several Middle East specialists as it was not feasible to cancel that event in the time available. Other program engagements for 22 February were cancelled.

Question No. 10

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mr Rudd's visit to Washington 22 February 2012 – cancelled travel arrangements

Question on Notice

Page: 7

Senator Kroger

Question

When were further travel arrangements cancelled? What were the cancellation fees? Were there any costs involved in cancelling scheduled flights?

Answer

- (i) Further travel arrangements were cancelled on receiving advice of Mr Rudd's resignation.
- (ii) Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). The question of whether any costs were involved in cancelling scheduled flights or whether there were any cancellation fees should be referred to Finance.

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Question No. 11

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Staff travel

Question on Notice

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Senator Eggleston

Question

What airline do DFAT officers travel with when attending the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston? Is it sometimes Emirates?

Answer

The primary airlines used for overseas travel associated with these training courses in the United States are Qantas, United, American Airlines and Virgin Australia. DFAT staff fly Emirates from time to time, but not across the Pacific.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 12

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Staff travel

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Senator Eggleston

Question

*How many people have attended the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston?
And are those people all still employed by DFAT in Canberra?*

Answers

Twenty five departmental officers have attended Harvard Kennedy School in Boston. Twenty four of these officers are still employed by DFAT in Canberra.

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Question No. 13

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Staff travel

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Senator Kroger

Question

Can you provide the details of (overseas training) programs that you offer to senior officers in the department, and the process for people to apply?

Answers

Overseas training programs are offered to SES and EL2 employees at the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston (HKS), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore (LKY) and the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville (FEI). The courses offered at HKS include *Driving Government Performance; Leadership for the 21st Century; Leadership in Crisis; Mastering Negotiation, Mastering Trade Policy and Leadership Decision-Making*. The course on offer at LKY is the *Senior Management Program* and at FEI, the course is called *Leadership for a Democratic Society*.

The Executive Training and Development Program (ETDP) is advertised in April/May each year for training opportunities the coming financial year. SES and EL2 employees are invited to submit expressions of interest to apply for training opportunities listed in the advertised program. Officers will typically nominate one or two preferred courses in order of preference. Preferred participant selection for SES and EL2 officers is determined by the Secretary, Deputy Secretaries, First Assistant Secretary Corporate Management Division and Assistant Secretary Staffing Branch.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Questions on Notice

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Question No. 14

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Staff training

Question on Notice

Page 16

Senator Kroger

Question

Can you submit an outline of the specific professional development programs that are offered to DFAT SES?

Answer

DFAT SES officers are invited to apply for places at the following programs:

| Institution | Program |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) | Leadership Across Boundaries |
| APSC | Leadership Mastery |
| APSC | Talent Development Program |
| APSC | Transforming Leadership |
| Australian New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) | Towards Strategic Leadership |
| ANZSOG | Leadership in Times of Crises |
| Melbourne Business School | Leading for Strategic Success |
| Harvard Kennedy School of Government (HKS) | Driving Government Performance |
| HKS | Leadership Decision-Making* |
| HKS | Leadership for the 21st Century* |

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|--|--|
| HKS | Senior Executives in National and International Security |
| HKS | Leadership in Crises |
| HKS | Mastering Negotiation |
| HKS | Mastering Trade Policy |
| Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy | Senior Management Program |
| Federal Executive Institute, Charlottesville | Leadership for a Democratic Society |
| National Security College (NSC) | National Security Senior Executive Development |
| NSC | Master of National Security Policy |
| NSC | Strategic Communications in National Security |
| Lowy Institute of Public Policy | Policy Entrepreneurship for SES/EL2 |

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
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Question No. 15

Program: DFAT

Topic: Julian Assange

Question on Notice

Page: 19

Senator Ludlum

Question

Has there been any contact with the legal counsel for Julian Assange this week?

Answer

Yes, There was an exchange of email correspondence between our High Commission in London and Mr Assange's lawyers on 25 May and 29 May.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 16

Program: DFAT

Topic: Huawei

Question on Notice

Page: 26

Senator Abetz

Question

*When was the discussion on Huawei by the National Secretaries Committee?
Before or after the Raiders pitch?*

Answer

DFAT does not disclose what is discussed at the Secretaries' Committee on National Security (SCNS) meetings. SCNS considers sensitive items which have been prepared for the purpose of consideration by the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

Question No. 17

Program: DFAT

Topic: Foreign Minister Travel

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Which countries have you travelled to this year and how they have been prioritised?

Answer

- (i) Senator Carr travelled to New Zealand from 9 – 10 March 2012 as Foreign Minister-designate.

Senator Carr has undertaken five official overseas visits to the following 17 countries between 13 March and 30 June 2012:

- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Singapore
- United States
- United Kingdom
- Belgium
- Malta
- Fiji
- China
- Japan
- Burma
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- Turkey
- Libya
- Algeria
- Morocco

- (ii) A number of factors are taken into account in planning official overseas travel by the Minister – these include the timing of international conferences and meetings and the availability of Ministerial interlocutors.

Question No. 18

Program: DFAT

Topic: Foreign Minister Travel

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Have you scheduled the rest of the year with your travel priorities? Are you able to provide us with that schedule? Once again I am happy for you to take it on notice for you to provide your travel plans for the rest of the year.

Answer

An indicative Ministerial travel program has been prepared and is under consideration. The Minister's travel program remains subject to constant review and possible change to take account of emerging priorities, the timing of international meetings and the availability of Ministerial interlocutors. Given the fluid nature of ministerial travel planning, it is not appropriate to put the indicative plan on the public record.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 19

Program: DFAT

Topic: Asia Century White Paper

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Can you tell us when the department was advised about the decision to draft the white paper?

Answer

The department (Mr Richardson) was told about the decision to draft the White Paper some days before the Prime Minister's announcement of the initiative on 28 September 2011.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 20

Program: DFAT

Topic: Asia Century White Paper

Question on Notice

Page: 34

Senator Kroger

Question

Can you tell us when you (Senator Carr) met with Dr Henry?

Answer

Senator Carr met with Dr Henry on 21 May 2012. Prior to this meeting they spoke on the phone, but the dates of these conversations were not noted in Senator Carr's diary.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 21

Program: DFAT

Topic: Climate Change conferences

Question on Notice

Page: 35

Senator Eggleston

Question

What are the costs associated with Copenhagen, Cancun, and Durban conferences?

Answer

Final costs incurred by DFAT including airfares, accommodation, office space and equipment, meals and incidentals to attend the following United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conferences of the Parties (UNFCCC COP) were:

Copenhagen (COP15): \$370,722.

Cancun (COP16): \$95,170.

Durban (COP17): \$66,225.

This includes one officer's travel to Durban via Paris for a non-UNFCCC meeting. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs.

Question No. 22

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global China Dialogue

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

How many invitations were sent out to invitees for the proposed "Global China Dialogue" and to whom were they sent?

Answer

A total of 292 invitations had been issued prior to the postponement of the Global China Dialogue. Those invitations were issued to influential leaders from government, business and academia from Australia and across the globe.

Question No. 23

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global China Dialogue

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

Were there any invitees who declined?

Answer

Yes. A total of 59 invitees had declined.

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Question No. 24

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global China Dialogue

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

How much has been spent on the process to date? And on those couple of abortive, if you like, conferences?

Answer

To date (13 July 2012), under \$64,000 has been spent on the organisation of the proposed Global China Dialogue.

Question No. 25

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global China Dialogue

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

Did the Australian Government offer to cover costs of participants? On the list that you provide could you indicate those who were offered? If it was accepted or not by them would be useful, and also what it covered and how much?

Answer

Invitations to VIP participants, as well as some academics and developing country participants, included an offer to cover travel and accommodation at the conference venue. These costs would vary depending on the location of the invitee.

Question No. 26

Program: DFAT

Topic: Conference – key speaker

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

Have you (Senator Carr) ever accepted the role of key speaker at a conference in your current role?

Answer

Senator Carr has accepted numerous speaking engagements since becoming Australia's Foreign Minister. For example, he delivered keynote addresses to the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Banyan Tree Leadership Forum in Washington DC, the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo and the Latin America Downunder Conference in Sydney. He will also be a keynote speaker for *The Australian* and *The Wall Street Journal's* Australia in China's Century Conference to be held in Sydney on 14th September 2012.

Question No. 27

Program: DFAT

Topic: China: Carbon Emissions

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

Have China emissions actually reduced in the past year or the past decade? If not, what has the rate of growth in their emissions been?

Answer

According to the Climate Analysis Indicator Tool produced by the World Resources Institute, China's emissions grew from 4.8 gigatonnes (Gt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) in 2000 to 7.2 Gt CO₂e in 2005 (this is the most recent credible data covering all six Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases).

China has pledged to reduce its emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 45 per cent by 2020 compared to 2005. It has domestic targets under its twelfth Five Year Plan (2011 to 2015) to reduce both its emissions per unit of GDP and its energy consumption per unit of GDP. According to China's National Development and Reform Commission, energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped by 19 per cent (just short of its 20 per cent reduction target) over the period 2006 to 2010 (the eleventh Five Year Plan).

Question No. 28

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diplomatic Asylum

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

In light of the Chinese activist who sought refuge in the US embassy not so long ago, what would Australia's process be in dealing with the matter if that happened to us?

Answer

Australia's approach to any such situation would depend on the circumstances.

Question No. 29

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesian minors in custody

Question on Notice

Page: 44

Senator Kroger

Question

Do you have information on how many Indonesian minors are being held in Australian asylum seeker camps?

Answer

The Attorney General's Department advises that as of 5 July, there were a total of 32 Indonesian nationals suspected of people smuggling offences in immigration detention who were claiming to be minors. This includes four Indonesian crew claiming to be minors who were before the courts.

Question No. 30

Program: DFAT

Topic: Shapelle Corby

Question on Notice

Page: 45

Senator Kroger

Question

Was the department advised ahead of time of the decision by the Indonesian President to grant Schapelle Corby a reprieve?

Answer

On 21 May, Indonesia's State Secretariat told Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia that President Yudhoyono had made a decision to grant a five year sentence reduction to Ms Schapelle Corby. On 22 May, Indonesia's State Secretary announced that the letter granting the sentence reduction had been signed on 20 May and sent to Denpasar Court.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 31

Program: DFAT

Topic: Schapelle Corby

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Are you aware if Ms Corby's family was told before the announcement?

Answer

We understand Ms Corby's family became aware of the decision on 22 May.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 32

Program: DFAT

Topic: Burma

Question on Notice

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Senator Ludlam

Question

I understand that the AFP has a small group of people in Burma working in counter-narcotics. Have there been any changes since the new regime for counter-narcotics, and what difference has that made for the AFP?

Answer

As a result of the democratic changes in Burma there has been no significant change in what is a very strong and productive relationship between the AFP and the Myanmar Police Force.

Question No. 33

Program: DFAT

Topic: Papua

Question on Notice

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Senator Di Natale

Question

When did the Australian Government make a formal approach to the Indonesian authorities about the detention of Papuan activists?

Answer

Following the violence at the end of the Third Papuan Congress on 19 October 2011, our Ambassador in Jakarta stated publicly that the response by the Indonesian security forces at the conclusion of the Papua congress was disproportionate, and that a thorough investigation must be carried out. He also said it was important President Yudhoyono honoured his commitment that all abuses by security forces in the Papua provinces be investigated and punished.

On 7 February 2012, Australian Embassy officials in Jakarta made representations to Indonesian Government officials concerning the cases of the five Papuans facing subversion charges for their role in the Third Papuan Congress. At that time, Australian officials noted that the international community saw these cases as a violation of the right to freedom of expression and would be watching the trial closely.

On 4 April, after the conviction of the five Papuans, Australian Embassy officials in Jakarta raised our concerns over the sentences with Indonesian Government officials. The Australian officials also underscored that imprisoning peaceful political activists damaged Indonesia's human rights credentials and undermined Indonesia's reputation as a regional leader on human rights.

Question No. 34

Program: DFAT

Topic: Western Sahara

Question on Notice

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Senator Rhiannon

Question

Has the government raised the abuse of human rights in Western Sahara in the recent Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council? If not, is there any reason it was not raised?

Answer

No. In line with Australia's aim to see an increase in the global ratification of core human rights conventions, our UPR recommendations for Morocco focused on accession to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. The Government of Morocco accepted all of Australia's recommendations.

The Australian Government's consistent position has been to support United Nations efforts to find an enduring settlement in relation to Western Sahara, including addressing human rights issues.

Question No. 35

Program: DFAT

Topic: Western Sahara

Question on Notice

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Senator Rhiannon

Question

I understand the OECD has guidelines for multinational enterprises which show that the responsibilities of companies extend right down the supply chain. Are these principles that the government recognises and advocates that Australian companies follow?

Answer

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are endorsed by the Australian Government.

The Treasury has primary carriage for the OECD Guidelines and conducts outreach to promote the principles to Australian business. DFAT conducts industry outreach activities to companies operating overseas on “trading with integrity”, with a strong focus on anti-corruption, which also raise awareness of the OECD Guidelines and other best practice frameworks for companies operating in weak governance zones.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises were updated in May 2011. The revised Guidelines encourage enterprises to manage risks through the supply chain and to support initiatives and social dialogue on responsible supply chain management. While encouraging best practice, the Guidelines also acknowledge that there may be practical limitations on the ability of enterprises to effect change in the behaviour of their suppliers.

Question No. 36

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

Page: 61

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Is the current Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, or are any other Australian officials in Sri Lanka supplying information to the Sri Lankan Government to stop boats with Tamils or asylum seekers leaving for Australia?

Answer

People smuggling is a crime in Australia and Sri Lanka and Australia works closely with Sri Lankan authorities to counter this criminal activity.

Our 2009 Memorandum of Understanding on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation provides a strong basis for this bilateral cooperation through provisions for information sharing, coordinated operations and capacity building assistance in support of efforts to tackle priority criminal issues, including people smuggling.

Question No. 37

Program: SMD

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

Page 62

Senator Rhiannon

Question

In April an Australian man was kidnapped by Sri Lankan authorities. He claims that, before he was released and returned to Australia, he was tortured. The Sri Lankan authorities denied holding him. Was this raised with the Sri Lankan High Commission in Canberra?

Answer

Yes. Australian officials in Canberra raised this case with the Sri Lankan High Commission on 11 April, 17 April and 8 May 2012. We asked the Sri Lankan authorities to investigate fully the circumstances surrounding the abduction and to be kept informed of the progress of those investigations.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
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Question No. 38

Program: SMD

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

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Senator Rhiannon

Question

In February the Sri Lankan High Commissioner spoke at a function in Parliament and claimed that Australian Tamils were raising funds for future Tamil Tiger activities. Have you raised this with the High Commissioner?

Answer

Yes.

Question No. 39

Program: SMD

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Can the Department provide an update of the status of Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report. Was there a timeline included with the recommendations?

Answer

Sri Lanka has asked for "time and space" to implement the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) recommendations. The Australian government, however, continues to urge the government of Sri Lanka to move to implement the LLRC recommendations and to set a timeframe for doing so.

Australia further co-sponsored a resolution on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council, which requested the government of Sri Lanka to present an action plan detailing the steps it has taken and will take to implement the LLRC's constructive recommendations and address alleged violations of international law. The resolution was adopted on 22 March 2012.

The Sri Lankan government has not publicly released its draft LLRC implementation action plan, although local media have published alleged government documents on implementation. The Sri Lankan government has advised its intention to consult with the public and all parties in the governing coalition before finalising the plan.

Presidential Secretary Lalith Weeratunga is heading a government taskforce that will oversee the implementation of the LLRC recommendations. The taskforce has not yet publicly specified which recommendations will be implemented nor provided a precise timeframe for implementation.

Question No. 40

Program: DFAT

Topic: Human Rights Iran

Question on Notice

Page: 65

Senator Fawcett

Question

What is the government's official position toward Iran in terms of its human rights record? What steps are you taking to engage with them on that front?

Answer

The Australian Government remains deeply troubled by Iran's human rights record.

The Government continues to express concerns to the Iranian Government, urging Iran to repeal the death penalty, protect and promote rights to freedom of assembly and expression (including political and media freedoms), and uphold the rights of religious and ethnic minorities.

Where constructive to do so, the Australian Government has engaged with Iranian authorities on specific cases of particular concern, including that of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani who was sentenced to death for apostasy. This includes representations by the Australian Ambassador in Tehran, and representations by officials in Canberra.

In addition to representations made directly to the Government of Iran, Australia maintains a strong record of defending human rights multilaterally, including in the UN Human Rights Council. Since March 2010, Australia has delivered six statements to the UN Human Rights Council expressing our deep concern at the situation in Iran.

The Government will continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in Iran, including through the Australian Embassy in Tehran. The Government will continue to raise concerns directly with Iranian officials and in multilateral fora in a constructive and appropriate way that reflects Australia's fundamental belief in the universality of human rights.

Question No. 41

Program: DFAT

Topic: Human Rights - Iran

Question on Notice

Page: 65

Senator Kroger

Question

Can the department actually advise us on the status of this pastor [Pastor Nadarkhani] himself – his personal circumstances?

Answer

According to publicly available information, Youcef Nadarkhani is a pastor of the Protestant Evangelical Church of Iran. Born a Muslim, Pastor Nadarkhani is believed to have converted to Christianity in his teens.

Pastor Nadarkhani was first imprisoned in December 2006 on charges of apostasy but was released two weeks later without charge.

In 2009 he was re-arrested on charges of protesting and in September 2010 was sentenced to death for apostasy by the Assize Court in Gilan province. In November 2010 the verdict for his September trial was delivered in writing indicating that he would be executed by hanging. In June 2011 the Supreme Court of Iran instructed the court in Rasht to re-examine some procedural flaws in the case.

The legal process to review Pastor Nadarkhani's case is ongoing and he remains in custody.

Question No. 42

Program: DFAT

Topic: Human Rights - Iran

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

What action is the department taking (if any) in response to the two motions in the Senate – 3 November 2011 and 1 March 2012 both pertaining specifically to Iran and to human rights issues?

Answer

The Australian Government has made multiple representations to urge Iran to uphold the human rights of its citizens and to protect religious freedom. These representations have included specific reference, where constructive to do so, to the case of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani.

Prior to the passing of the two Senate motions (3 November 2011 and 1 March 2012), the Government had already made representations in support of Pastor Nadarkhani to the Iranian authorities. On 20 October 2011, officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) raised a range of human rights issues, including the Nadarkhani case, with the Iranian Embassy in Canberra. On 24 October 2011 Australian Embassy officials in Tehran raised Pastor Nadarkhani's case with Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.

On 12 March 2012 Australia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva delivered Australia's statement on Iran to the UN Human Rights Council. The statement specifically urged the Iranian Government to review the case of Pastor Nadarkhani. The statement also expressed concern at Iran's use of the death penalty, suppression of freedom of assembly and treatment of ethnic and religious minorities, including Baha'is. The statement urged Iran to stay all executions, respect human rights of all detainees and ensure all trials are conducted fairly.

On 6 June 2012 the Australian Ambassador to Iran expressed Australia's concern at Iran's human rights record to Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. The Ambassador made specific reference to the case of Pastor Nadarkhani.

On 25 June 2012 senior officials from the DFAT raised Iran's human rights record with a visiting Iranian official, including specific reference to the case of Pastor Nadarkhani.

The Australian Government continues to closely monitor the human rights situation in Iran, including through the Australian Embassy in Tehran, and will continue to raise concerns with Iranian officials and through multilateral channels in ways that do not harm the interests of the individuals concerned.

Question No. 43

Program: DFAT

Topic: India - ETS

Question on Notice

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Senator Eggleston

Question

Has India or any of its states expressed a plan to adopt an emissions trading scheme?

Answer

India is examining introducing a pilot emissions trading scheme for particulate matter in three states (Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat). The scheme is focused on meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

India has a number of indirect carbon emission trade schemes:

- India's Performance Achieve and Trade scheme issues tradeable energy saving credits to companies that exceed energy saving reduction targets. It is expected to save energy use equal to approximately 6.6 million tonnes of oil equivalent by 2014-15.
- Its Renewable Energy Certificate scheme imposes obligations on power companies to produce renewable energy. Those that produce renewable energy are issued tradeable certificates that can be purchased by those which fail to meet their obligations.
- India also takes part in global carbon markets through the UNFCCC's Clean Development Mechanism, trading in Certified Emissions Reductions.

Question No. 44

Program: DFAT

Topic: UN Issues

Question on Notice

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Senator Singh

Question

Where is the Coral Triangle Initiative secretariat located?

Answer

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security Secretariat is based at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Question No. 45

Program: DFAT

Topic: UN Issues

Question on Notice

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Senator Singh

Question

Commission on Population and Development – has Australia attended any meeting of this commission, and if not, why not? If we have, which ones have we attended?

Answer

Yes. Australia attends the annual meeting of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) as an observer. Statements made by the Government of Australia at the CPD meetings can be found on the Commission's website.

Our records show that Australia has attended for at least the past five years.

Question No. 46

Program: DFAT

Topic: Chefs at Overseas Posts

Question on Notice

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Senator Eggleston

Question

In France there is something called a carte spéciale, which enables the holder to enjoy tax free status in France. Is the chef to the Ambassador on one of the cards?

Answer

Cartes spéciales are issued by the French Foreign Ministry to the foreign domestic staff of Ambassadors so that they can work and reside in France. The chef to the Ambassador has a carte spéciale.

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Question No. 47

Program: DFAT

Topic: Chefs at Overseas Posts

Question on Notice

Page: 82

Senator Eggleston

Question

If so, would that not constitute a special deal?

Answer

No, the carte spéciale does not constitute a special deal.

Question No. 48

Program: DFAT

Topic: Drivers at Overseas Posts

Question on Notice

Page: 83

Senator Eggleston

Question

How many drivers are there on average at each post?

Answer

The number of drivers varies at each post depending on the size and security environment in which it operates. The average number of drivers across DFAT managed posts is 2.5. Please note that this figure includes driving and mixed administrative duties.

Question No. 49

Program: DFAT

Topic: Paris Embassy

Question on Notice

Page: 84

Senator Eggleston

Questions

- (A) *When did the current Ambassador to Paris present his credentials?*
- (B) *Where does he live while his current apartment is being refurbished?*
- (C) *How much is the rent in the temporary apartment?*
- (D) *How long is the lease on this temporary apartment? And if six years, why so long?*
- (E) *How long it is expected to take to refurbish the Australian Ambassador's apartment in Paris? What is the estimated cost?*

Answers

- (A) The Ambassador presented his credentials on 11 July 2012.
- (B) The Ambassador is temporarily accommodated in an apartment on the Boulevard St Germain, not far from the chancery.
- (C) The rent is Euro 16,000 (\$A21,000) per month which includes service charges. Heating and hot water costs are included in the service charge.
- (D) The lease is for six years with a break notice period of three months where either side can give three months' notice to terminate the lease. The longer lease was agreed as part of the lease negotiations. The longer lease provides for the temporary relocation of the Ambassador to the OECD when the latter's apartment is scheduled for refurbishment (i.e. after the Ambassador to France's apartment is complete).
- (E) Estimated timing from start to completion is eighteen months – from possession of site to handover. Subject to completion of public tender process the estimated cost of refurbishment is Euro 3.2 million (\$A4.3 million).

Question No. 50

Program: DFAT

Topic: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Question on Notice

Page: 85

Senator Fawcett

Question

In your budget, there is \$230m in administered funds into international organisations; does that include the IPCC trust fund?

Answer

No. Australia's annual voluntary contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Trust Fund is funded from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's Administered Expenses for Program 1.4 Helping to Shape a Global Climate Change Solution.

Question No. 51

Program: DFAT

Topic: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Question on Notice

Page: 85

Senator Fawcett

Question

In addition to the question on notice you have taken about the IPCC Trust Fund, could you also come back to me to look at the reasons the United States congress chose to halt its funding, and to see whether any of those items are cause for concern for Australia? If they are, perhaps you could also provide an explanation as to what changes we need to make in our system of due diligence to make sure that our money is spent wisely.

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency are not in a position to comment on the reasons behind US Congressional decisions. We note that the United States has provided approximately 40 per cent of the total funds to the IPCC Trust Fund since its inception in 1989, including a contribution of 1.9 million Swiss Francs in 2011. The United States further contributes to the IPCC through hosting a Technical Support Unit and supporting the operation of the IPCC Data Distribution Centre.

The IPCC Trust Fund is administered under the Financial Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization. The IPCC Financial Procedures are consistent with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. The IPCC Plenary (comprised of the 195 member governments, including Australia) adopts a budget for the IPCC Trust Fund by consensus prior to the commencement of the financial year.

Australia participates in IPCC plenary sessions where decisions are taken about the IPCC work program and where reports are accepted, adopted and approved.

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Question No. 52

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia Network tender

Question on Notice

Page: 86

Senator Birmingham

Question

When was the PM&C submission on the Australia Network circulated? When did DFAT provide its comments on this submission?

Answer

It is not appropriate to comment on the content of Cabinet's consideration except to the extent that this has already been publicly disclosed, including in the Australian National Audit Office report, "Administration of the Australia Network Tender Process", No.29 of 2011-12.

Question No. 53

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia Network tender

Question on Notice

Page: 90

Senator Birmingham

Question

At the 6th June 2011 Cabinet meeting, the Government agreed that the Foreign Minister would bring forward a cabinet submission on the tender process. Was the 6 June meeting the result of a DFAT submission and, if not, was DFAT given the opportunity to comment on any submission going forward that led to the 6 June discussion?

Answer

It is not appropriate to comment on the content of Cabinet's consideration except to the extent that this has already been publicly disclosed, including in the Australian National Audit Office report, "Administration of the Australia Network Tender Process", No.29 of 2011-12.

Question No. 54

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia Network tender

Question on Notice

Page: 90

Senator Birmingham

Question

Was the compensation payment to the Australian News Channel approved by Cabinet?

Answer

Details of the payment to the Australian News Channel and related settlement arrangements were agreed between relevant ministers (Attorney-General; the Ministers for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; Foreign Affairs; Finance and Administration; and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister). Following agreement by ministers, DFAT entered into a confidential settlement agreement with ANC.

Question No. 55

Program: DFAT

Topic: Syria, Iran, Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 96

Senator Kroger

Question

Do Syria or Iran recognise dual citizenship?

Answer

Syria recognises dual nationality, but under Syrian law, Syrian citizenship takes primacy over the second nationality. If an individual is an Australian/Syrian dual national, they will be treated as a Syrian national by Syrian government authorities.

Iran does not recognise dual nationality.

Question No. 56

Program: DFAT

Topic: Uranium Mining in Africa

Question on Notice

Page: 97

Senator Ludlam

Question

Is ASNO aware of any claims of concern and/or harassment of critics of Paladin Energy's Kayelekera uranium mine in Malawi? Are there any actions underway?

Answer

DFAT is aware that an online newspaper *The Maravi Post* reported allegations, in an article published on 26 October 2011, that Paladin Energy engaged in corrupt practices.

The article also noted that prominent student and civil society activist, Robert Chasowa (who had made allegations of corruption against the company), had died in circumstances which remain unclear. The article implied that the company was knowingly involved in the death.

The Maravi Post subsequently printed a correction on 22 November 2011 withdrawing the allegations as false.

Rick Crabb (Chairman, Paladin Energy) wrote to the Australian High Commissioner to Malawi (Matthew Neuhaus – based in Harare) on 21 November 2011 confirming that the allegations were false.

Malawi's President, HE Mrs Joyce Banda, announced during her State of the Nation address on 18 May 2012 the establishment of a Commission of Enquiry into the death of Robert Chasowa. The enquiry is ongoing and our High Commission will continue to monitor this case.

Question No. 57

Program: DFAT

Topic: Uranium Mining in Africa

Question on Notice

Page: 97-98

Senator Ludlam

Question

- (A) *Can you provide an attendance list of the African Mining Vision workshop?*
- (B) *Was the Australian company Mantra Resources in attendance?*
- (C) *I raise them specifically because the company is proposing to modify the World Heritage boundaries of the Selous game reserve in Tanzania in order to facilitate uranium mining – Did the department provide any advice on this issue and does Australia support the proposed changes?*

Answer

- (A) We are unaware of any African Mining Vision workshops relating to uranium. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) hosted a seminar (*Seminar on Good Practices in the Processing and Control of Uranium Ore Concentrate*) in Windhoek, Namibia 23-27 April 2012. A list of participants is provided at Annex A (attached).
- (B) The firm Mantra Tanzania was represented at the IAEA seminar. We are not aware of its relationship with any Australian entities. We understand Mantra Resources Limited was acquired by and merged with Russian company JSC Atomredmetzoloto (ARMZ) and was subsequently delisted from the Australian Stock Exchange on 15 June 2011.
- (C) The issue of modifying the boundary of the *Selous* game reserve in Tanzania was on the agenda of the World Heritage Committee Meeting (24 June - 6 July 2012). As Australia is not a member of the Committee, we are not involved in the decision-making process on this issue.

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Annex A: List of participants at the IAEA Seminar on Good Practices in the Processing and Control of Uranium Ore Concentrate (Windhoek) 2012

| | |
|---|--|
| Mr. Farid BENAOUICHA Algeria COMENA Draria Nuclear Reserach Center | Mr. Louis-Victor BRIL France European Commission |
| Mr. Russell BRADFORD Australia Uranium One | Mr. Eddie MAIER France European Commission |
| Mr. John KALISH Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Mr. Sylvain SAINT-PIERRE France World Nuclear Association |
| Mr. John MUDIWA Botswana Radiation Protection Inspectorate | Ms. Paule Christiane GONDI-M'BOUALA Gabon Ministère des Mines, du Pétrole et des Hydrocarbures |
| Mr. Dikgang PITINYANE Botswana Department of Mines | Mr. Iounut SUSEANU Hungary International Atomic Energy Agency |
| Mr. Paulo Renato BARBOZA MARINHO Brazil Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission | Ms. Natalya BOKOVAYA Kazakhstan NAC Kazatomprom |
| Mr. Luíz Filipe da SILVA Brazil Industrias Nucleares do Brasil | Mr. Kaldybek DONBAYEV Kazakhstan Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Committee |
| Mr. Leonardo SOUZA DUNLEY Brazil Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission | Ms. Natalya IZMAILOVA Kazakhstan Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Committee |
| Mr. Dave COCHRANE Canada Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Ms. Caroline Phoebe THEKA Malawi Environmental Affairs Department |
| Mr. Yvon Simplicie KONDJI Central African Republic Université de Bangui | Mr. Cheikh Yacoub OULD TOMY Mauritania National Authority for Radioprotection, Nuclear Safety and Security (ARSN) |
| Mr. Hussein Hassan HUSSEIN MOSLEH Egypt African Union Commission | Mr. Werner DUVENHAGE Namibia Paladin Energy |
| Mr. Atnatiwos Zeleke MESHESHA Ethiopia | Mr. Joseph EIMAN Namibia National Radiation Protection Authority |
| Ms. Einas MOHAMMED Ethiopia African Union Commission | Hon. Dr. Richard KAMWI |

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| | |
|---|--|
| Namibia Minister, Ministry of Health & Social Services | Ms. Amelia BROODRYK South Africa Institute of Security Studies |
| Hon. Samuel NUUYOMA Namibia Regional Governor | Mr. Michael CLARKE South Africa International Atomic Energy Agency |
| Mr. Wotan SWIEGERS Namibia Uranium Institute | Mr. Johannes MAHLANGU South Africa Department of Energy |
| Mr. Axel TIBINYANE Namibia National Radiation Protection Authority | Mr. Thabo TSELANE South Africa National Nuclear Regulator |
| Dr. Gunhild VON OERTZEN Namibia Rössing Uranium Limited | Mr. Neville WHITING South Africa International Atomic Energy Agency |
| Mr. Detlof VON OERTZEN Namibia Rössing Uranium Limited | Mr. Mwaipopo ASA Tanzania Mantra Tanzania |
| Mr. Abdulaye HAMIDOU Niger SOMAIR/AREVA | Mr. Raphael CHIBUNDA Tanzania Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology |
| Mr. Salissou HASSANE Niger Ministry of Mines and Industrial Development | Mr. Nyelo GODWIN Tanzania Uranex Tanzania |
| Mr. Shams ELEGBA Nigeria Department of Physics, University of Abuja | Mr. Edwin Almandus NGONYANI Tanzania Ministry of Energy and Minerals |
| Mr. Bature Chafe UMAR Nigeria Nigerian Geological Survey Agency | Mr. Mwijarubi Melkizedeck NYARUBA Tanzania Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission |
| Mr. Sadiq Dantala UMAR Nigeria Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority | Mr. Ally SAMAJE Tanzania Ministry of Energy and Minerals |
| Mr. Silas YAKUBU Nigeria Nigerian Geological Survey Agency | Mr. Trevor DIXON United Kingdom World Nuclear Transport Institute |
| Mr. Elena TINYAKOVA Russia Interpreter | Mr. Christopher BEHAN United States Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration |
| Mr. Piet BREDELL South Africa Piet Bredell Nuclear Consultants CC | |

Question No 58

Program: DFAT

Topic: Direct Aid Program

Question on Notice

Page: 16

Senator Xenophon

Question

In Indonesia and Timor Leste, could you indicate what the scope of that fund [Direct Aid Program] would be and details of how it has been expended in Indonesia and Timor including a tender process?

Answer

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is funded on an annual basis by AusAID and administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Through it, the Government funds small community-level development projects, typically of between \$5,000 and \$30,000. The total global DAP budget is currently \$10 million.

In 2011-12, the DAP budget for Indonesia is \$242,000. This is split between our embassy in Jakarta, which received \$190,000, and our consulate-general in Bali, which received \$52,000. In Jakarta, projects funded this financial year have focussed on education, economic empowerment, religious tolerance and sports development in an impoverished community. In Bali, projects have focussed on community health, education, economic empowerment, the environment, advancing the interests of persons with disabilities and providing support to victims of child trafficking.

The 2011-12 DAP budget for East Timor is \$100,000. This is administered by our embassy in Dili. Projects funded this financial year have focussed on water and sanitation, education and training, community economic empowerment (particularly for rural women and people with disabilities) and governance.

In both countries, projects have been selected on the basis of applications received from the general public and opportunities identified by officers at post.

Given the program's nature, it does not involve a tender process.

Question No. 59

Program: DFAT

Topic: Thai Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 67

Senator MacDonald

Question

There is a particular consular case with regard to custody of the child with a Thai Mother and Australian Father living in Rockhampton. Can you please give me an update?

Answer

This case is essentially a private legal matter between the child's parents in a foreign jurisdiction. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is therefore unable to intervene. This advice was provided to the father in correspondence from DFAT in October 2011.

Question No. 60

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trade legislation

Question on Notice

Page: 69

Senator Back

Question

Is there anything that would come within your remit that would take into account possible anti-competitiveness between domestic trade and export trade? Is that something that would raise alarm bells with you from a trade perspective? In the same way I would ask that you extend that question on notice to competitive barriers between states. Looking at Queensland and New South Wales, for example, export of live animals is a very important aspect of Queensland's trade, whereas that from New South Wales is practically negligible – raising the question of a barrier in competitiveness for a producer in each of those two states in their ease or freedom of conducting their trading activities. When I say 'between' states, I am talking now about, if you like, those decisions that are available, for example, to a Queensland producer or vice versa, given the fact that the Queensland producer would normally have access to two elements of trade – export and domestic – whereas the New South Wales producer would normally be looking at the domestic trade.

Answer

The Department is not aware of industry concerns about this issue. The regulations applicable to Australian exporters provide the assurance that exports of feeder and slaughter livestock are handled in accordance with international animal welfare standards. State and territory governments regulate Australian domestic trade in feeder and slaughter livestock to meet the required standards.

Question No. 61

Program: DFAT (TED)

Topic: Live Cattle Exports

Question on Notice

Page: 69/70

Senator Nash

Question

- (A) *What were the trade figures (in head of cattle) with Indonesia in 2009 and 2010 as compared to 2011?*
- (B) *Could you give me the quarterly quotas that existed over those three years as well?*
- (C) *What was the live cattle quota for 2010?*
- (D) *Was the entire quota used in those previous years?*

Answer

- (A) In 2009, Australia exported 768,133 head of cattle. In 2010, 520,987 head of cattle were exported. In 2011, 411,000 head of cattle were exported.
- (B) For 2012, Indonesia has set the initial annual quota at 283,000 head of cattle. Import permits are issued on a quarterly basis.

In 2011, the annual quota was for 500,000 head with import permits being issued on a quarterly basis.

In 2009 and 2010, there was no annual quota.

- (C) There was no Indonesian quota on live cattle imports in 2010.
- (D) There was no Indonesian quota on live cattle imports for 2009 and 2010.

In 2011 the annual quota was 500,000 head and 411,000 head were exported.

Question No. 62

Program: DFAT

Topic: South Korea FTA

Question on Notice

Page: 71/72

Senator Nash

Question

- (A) *Is it correct that there is a bit of a go-slow based on the Korean negotiations with the US? Did elections in Korea and domestic Korean issues affect the US negotiations?*
- (B) *Could you provide the agricultural benefits or drawbacks of this agreement?*

Answer

- (A) There was a delay in progress of the Australia-Korea FTA negotiations due to the political debate in Korea last year concerning passage of the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) as well as the subsequent Korean National Assembly elections that took place in mid-April 2012.
- (B) An FTA with Korea will benefit Australian agricultural producers and exporters by securing important agricultural market access into our third largest export market. In particular, Australian exporters of beef, sugar, dairy, grains, horticulture, lamb, seafood and wine are expected to benefit.

Question No. 63

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC - PNG LNG Project

Question on Notice

Page: 76

Senator Rhiannon

Question

There are reports of PNG [Government] making payments to people affected – are you aware of that?

Answer

EFIC is not aware of such payments but DFAT can advise that the Government of PNG paid K3 million to nominated representatives of persons affected by the landslide, including relatives of persons who lost their lives, to assist with relocation and resettlement. The PNG Natural Disaster Centre stressed that this was not a compensation payment as the PNG Government had not yet completed its investigations into the cause of the disaster.

Question No. 64

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC - PNG LNG Project

Question on Notice

Page: 77

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Could you supply us with a copy of the social and environmental impacts of the project? And where they were published – the details of the social and environment assessment of the project.

Answer

The PNG LNG Project's environmental and social impact statement is available on the Project website [<http://www.pnglng.com>], as are the Project's Quarterly Environmental and Social Reports. The group of lenders, including EFIC, engages an Independent Environmental and Social Consultant (IESC), D'Appolonia, to monitor the Project's compliance with its environmental and social standards. D'Appolonia's site visit reports are available on the Project website.

Question No. 65

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC - Tenix

Question on Notice

Page: 78

Senator: Rhiannon

Question

What is the status of the EFIC Guarantee to ANZ in the first instance? Did they [Philippines Government] default for a period?

Answer

The Government of the Philippines has made all scheduled loan repayments due to ANZ under the Tenix facility. There has been no period of default.

Question No. 66

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC – Productivity Commission Review

Question on Notice

Page: 78

Senator: Rhiannon

Question

The Productivity Commission, I understand, is currently conducting an inquiry into Australia's export credit arrangements.

- (A) Did EFIC approach any companies or people that EFIC works with to make submissions on the Productivity Commission's draft report released in Feb this year?*
- (B) Did you inform your customers that the report was out and suggest that they make submissions?*
- (C) Can you table the email that was sent out? If you cannot table that email, can you table the contents and who it was sent to?*

Answer

- (A) EFIC informed stakeholders, including clients, financial institutions and legal firms, of the Productivity Commission's call for comment on its draft report through a page on the EFIC website: <http://efic.gov.au/about/Pages/EFIC-Review.aspx>. The page explained how to participate in the review process, via either written submission or at a public hearing. It provided links to the draft report, EFIC's submission and to the Productivity Commission (PC) website. Between 5 and 22 March 2012 EFIC also sent emails alerting stakeholders to the PC's call for feedback on its draft report and referring them to the EFIC website for further information.
- (B) See answer to (A) above.
- (C) The email that was sent out is attached.



EFIC Review

Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to you regarding the Productivity Commission's draft Report on EFIC. Our concern is that EFIC's ability to help your company and others will be diminished if the draft recommendations in that Report are endorsed by Government.

While EFIC will respond to this draft Report, I am asking you to consider whether your insights into the challenges of winning contracts, managing risk and financing your business might help the Government to understand the implications of the Commission's recommendations.

We feel strongly that the challenges facing Australian companies are not given adequate consideration by the Commission. From our work with your company and others, we appreciate that funding in many overseas markets is constrained; that funding even within Australia can be an issue for large projects or SMEs looking to grow their business overseas; and that even after your first success in a market, it takes time and effort to establish your business and then enter into new markets.

Companies and banks alike see EFIC as a partner in tackling these challenges. EFIC has over 50 years of experience responsibly helping Australian exporters to overcome these financial barriers. This year we forecast supporting over \$5 billion of exports and recording another strong profit. Since 1991, we have generated over \$450 million in profits and paid dividends to Government of more than \$214 million. Our 2011 Client Satisfaction survey conducted independently by East & Partners recorded a Net Promoter Score of 94% - that is, 94% of our clients and prospective clients would recommend EFIC to another Australian company given their experience. Yet some of the Commission's draft recommendations go to the heart of our ability to be an effective commercial partner.

Please consider seriously whether your insights into the challenges of winning business overseas or financing projects might help the Government to understand the implications of the Commission's recommendations in the next stage in this process, which involves extensive debate in Government after the Commission's report is finalised. You can help to influence those settings by expressing your views now. Without your commercial perspective, EFIC's mandate and ability to help your company could be dramatically curtailed.

[Making yourself heard at a Productivity Commission hearing](#)

[Sending a letter to dispute the findings of the draft report](#)

Yours sincerely,

EFIC Managing Director & CEO

Question No. 67

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia's TTPA and the costings of the Melbourne Round

Question on Notice

Page: 80

Senator Ludlum

Question

Can you provide details on expenditure on Australia's TTPA, and the costings of the Melbourne Round?

Answer

Five rounds of TPP negotiations were held in in FY11/12 (Chicago, Lima, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne and Dallas) as well as 14 inter-sessional meetings. There are more than 20 negotiating groups which operate in the negotiations.

Total travel and accommodation for DFAT negotiators in FY11/12 was approximately \$900,000.

Australia hosted the 11th round of TPP negotiations from 1 – 9 March 2012 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

The round was attended by over 500 government officials from the 9 participating countries as well as 250 stakeholders.

The overall cost of the venue, including security, communications and food and beverage was approximately \$484,000. Travel and administrative costs for DFAT staff running the event was approximately an additional \$12,800.

Question No. 68

Program: DFAT

Topic: Carbon Tax

Question in Writing

Senator McKenzie

Question

- (A) *Has the department modelled the impact of the carbon tax on their running costs?*
- (B) *If so, what was the outcome? If not, why not?*
- (C) *How much electricity does the department use?*
- (D) *What is the department's total electricity spend?*

Answer

- (A) Only on electricity costs. Other increases that may be passed through by third party suppliers have not been modelled as their impact (if any) is unknown.
- (B) Information provided by the department's primary electricity provider indicated the carbon tax would increase the costs of electricity by approximately 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh).
Based on this increase the impact of the carbon tax is estimated to increase electricity costs by \$341,000 per annum based on current electricity usage.
- (C) The below figures relate to domestic electricity use only
 - 2009-10 15,192,386 kWh
 - 2010-11 15,128,265 kWh
 - 2011-12 to 31 March 2012 11,120,004 kWh
- (D) The below figures relate to domestic electricity expenditure only
 - 2009-10 \$1,927,626
 - 2010-11 \$2,116,425
 - 2011-12 to 31 March 2012 \$1,389,757

Question No. 69

Program: DFAT

Topic: China FTA

Question in Writing

Senator Fawcett

Question

- (A) What is the current status of the Australia China Free Trade Agreement?
- (B) Has China requested changes to Australia's Foreign Investment Review rules as part of the FTA negotiations?
- (C) The Rural and Regional Affairs References Committee has heard that a meeting was held between DFAT representatives and a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce in Sydney December 2011. Was the issue of foreign ownership raised during the discussions, and if so what were the outcomes of the discussions?

Answer

- (A) The Australian Government would welcome a high-quality FTA with China which serves Australia's trade and investment interests. Negotiations are ongoing, but they are difficult because of the range of interests and sensitivities on both sides. Discussions continue in order to narrow the differences.

The Department led Australia's negotiating team during three further rounds of FTA negotiations in 2011-12 (July 2011, November 2011 and March 2012). Australia hosted two of these rounds. Senior officials conducted additional discussions in February and May 2012, and the Department has supported high-level political engagement with Chinese leaders to discuss options for accelerating the FTA. This included the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness, Dr Craig Emerson's, meetings with China's Commerce Minister Chen Deming in Beijing and Paris in May 2012, Canberra in April 2012 and in June on the margins of APEC meetings.

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- (B) It is not the Department's position to comment on specific requests made and positions taken within negotiations, as this might prejudice the outcome of negotiations.
- (C) On 8 December 2011, DFAT and Austrade co-hosted a business networking luncheon in Sydney. It was not an FTA negotiating session. The event was attended by the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney and officials from China's Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce, the China Development Bank, provincial commerce bureaus, and executives from eleven Chinese companies.

On the Australian side, in addition to DFAT and Austrade, the lunch was attended by representatives from agricultural industry associations, experts and consultants from institutions such as Sydney University, CSIRO and a range of major consultancy firms, as well as a small number of Australian companies with agricultural interests.

There were no formal discussions and no specific outcomes were agreed at the lunch.

Question No. 70

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Di Natale

Question

- (A) *How does the department ensure that the Government's Access and Equity Strategy is implemented in its entirety and in relation to all departmental activities?*
- (B) *How does the department acknowledge the multicultural character of the Australian society, in terms of the services and programs you provide?*
- (C) *How do you measure your success against Access and Equity goals? What evidence do you have that the department is actively implementing the Government's Access and Equity policy?*
- (D) *What changes will you implement over the next financial year to ensure your programs and services are more accessible to culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities?*
- (E) *What is your department doing to ensure it has a culturally competent workforce*

Answer

- (A) Implementation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Access and Equity Strategy is centrally monitored and managed by the Corporate Management Division.
- (B) The department is committed to ensuring its programs, services and related information are accessible and respond to the needs and circumstances of all Australians. The department:
 - recruits and trains staff with appropriate linguistic and cultural competence, and uses qualified interpreters to ensure effective communication;
 - makes information available in a timely manner, in appropriate media, publications, formats and languages;
 - uses the National Relay Service for Deaf or hearing-impaired clients;
 - consults appropriately with communities and client groups about regulations, the implementation of programs, and the delivery of its services.

The department's Workplace Diversity program ensures that its workforce reflects the Australian community it serves by providing opportunities to attract and retain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff (currently 46) and staff with a disability (currently 30).

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(C) The implementation and success of the Access and Equity goals is measured at time of reporting, and through feedback received from consultative channels.

(D) If necessary, adjustments may be made to the delivery of programs and services as a result of consultation with key stakeholders and clients.

(E) The department recruits and trains staff to ensure appropriate linguistic and cultural skills. The department's staff development program includes cultural awareness and inter-cultural effectiveness training. The department also has specific policies which recognise the cultural needs of the public. The department has specific policies on managing passport application processes when assisting clients from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: these policies and process are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure their relevance.

Overseas, the use of language designated-positions ensures the level of staff competency in meeting the needs of clients and stakeholders; as a result of a 2010 review, the number of language-designated positions increased by 27 to a total of 163 (an increase of 19.9 per cent) in August 2011. As at 31 March 2012, 643 current employees have been tested to a professional working level proficiency during their career. This number includes 180 employees with multiple language proficiencies. On arrival at post all officers receive a country-specific cultural briefing.

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Question No. 71

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question in Writing

Senator Di Natale

Question

What diplomatic efforts did Australia make to persuade Indonesia to lift its ban on international humanitarian assistance to the East Timorese in the period 1975 to 1979?

Answer

According to historical documents published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2000, the Australian Government in this period '...consistently supported the relief operations in East and West Timor of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)', '...expressed its disappointment and regret that the ICRC's operation in East Timor came to an end'; and '...made strong representations to the Indonesian Government and to the then authorities in Dili that an ICRC presence in East Timor be allowed again' (see *Documents on Australian Foreign Policy: Australia and the Indonesian Incorporation of Portuguese Timor, 1974-1976* (Melbourne University Press) p. 832).

Question No. 72

Program: DFAT

Topic: Foreign Minister travel

Question on Notice

Page: Written

Senator Kroger

- (A) *How many countries has the Minister visited since his appointment? How many of these countries are members of ASEAN.*
- (B) *How many of the visits were at the request of the Prime Minister's office and to which countries?*
- (C) *How many commercial flights has the Minister taken? How many VIP flights has the Minister taken?*
- (D) *Does the Minister travel on first class air tickets?*
- (E) *Has the Minister's wife accompanied him on any travel? If so, did she travel first class and who met that expense?*
- (F) *Can you please provide a breakdown on when and where the Minister has stayed overseas since his appointment?*
- (G) *Can you also please provide the breakdown of dates, names of hotel accommodation and costs associated with each stay?*
- (H) *How many staff have accompanied the minister on each trip? Could you please provide a breakdown of the staff's travel costs?*
- (I) *Which departmental staff have accompanied the Minister on these trips? What have their related costs been?*

Answer

- (A) Between 13 March and 30 June 2012 Senator Carr undertook five official overseas visits to seventeen countries. Four of these countries are members of ASEAN.
- (B) All Ministerial travel is approved by the Prime Minister.
- (C) As at 30 June 2012 Senator Carr had taken 27 commercial flights and five Special Purpose Aircraft (SPA)/VIP flights.

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- (D) Details and costs of Senator Carr's travel are available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD), which is responsible for the cost of airfares, accommodation, meals and incidentals, ground transport, non-portfolio-related hospitality and miscellaneous incidentals for the Minister. DoFD tables a document on Ministerial Travel expenses every six months.
- (E) As at 30 June 2012 Mrs Carr had accompanied Senator Carr on four of his official overseas visits. DoFD covers a Minister's spouse costs for accommodation, airfares (business class), meals and transport to official engagements.
- (F) Accommodation
- 1) During Senator Carr's visit to Cambodia, Vietnam and Singapore from 24 to 31 March 2012 he stayed at the following locations:
 - Siem Reap: Sokha Angkor Resort, 24-25 March
 - Phnom Penh: Raffles Hotel Le Royal, 25-27 March
 - Ho Chi Minh City: Park Hyatt Saigon, 27-28 March
 - Hanoi: Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel, 28-29 March
 - Singapore: St Regis Hotel, 29-30 March
 - 2) During Senator Carr's visit to the US, UK, Belgium and Malta from 9 to 28 April 2012 he stayed at the following locations :
 - New York: Ambassador's Residence, 9-14 April
 - London: High Commissioner's Residence, 15-17 April
 - Brussels: Sofitel Hotel; 17-19 April
 - Malta: Phoenicia Hotel, 19-20 April
 - Washington: The Willard Intercontinental Hotel, 20-26 April
 - 3) During Senator Carr's visit to Fiji from 30 April to 1 May 2012 he stayed at the Holiday Inn, Suva.
 - 4) During Senator Carr's visit to China and Japan from 11 to 19 May 2012 he stayed at the following locations:
 - Shanghai: The Fairmont Peace Hotel, 11-13 May
 - Beijing: The St Regis Hotel, 13-15 May
 - Shenyang: Sheraton Shenyang Lida Hotel, 15-16 May
 - Tokyo: Imperial Hotel, 16-18 May

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- 5) During Senator Carr's visit to Burma, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Libya, Algeria and Morocco from 5 to 22 June 2012 he stayed at the following locations:
- Rangoon: The Strand Hotel, 5-8 June
 - Bangkok transit: Novotel Suvarnabhumi Hotel, 8-9 June
 - Muscat: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 9-11 June
 - Jeddah: Jeddah Conference Palace, 11-12 June
 - Riyadh: Ritz Carlton Hotel, 12-13 June
 - London: High Commissioner's Residence, 13-15 June
 - Istanbul: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 15-18 June
 - Algiers: El Mithak Government Guest House, 18-19 June
 - Rabat: Sofitel Rabat Hotel, 19-20 June
- (G) For a breakdown of dates and names of hotel accommodation refer to H above. Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Any queries relating to costs should be referred to Finance.
- (H) Senator Carr was accompanied by two Advisers on each of these visits. Any queries relating to the Advisers' costs should be referred to Finance.
- (I) For a breakdown of departmental staff who have accompanied the Minister on these trips and their related costs refer to the answer to Question on Notice No 93.

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Question No. 73

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?*
- (B) *How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?*
- (C) *This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?*

Answer

- (A) As at 31 March 2012, the department recruited a total of 137 on-going employees in the 2011-12 financial year. These officers were recruited to the following classifications.

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Total | 137 |
| SES | 2 |
| EL2 | 4 |
| EL1 | 26 |
| APS6 | 11 |
| APS 4 & 5 | 31 |
| APS1-3 | 63 |

- (B) As at 31 March 2012, a total of 85 officers were employed as non-ongoing employees at the following classifications:

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Total | 85 |
| SES | 6 |
| EL2 | 10 |
| EL1 | 14 |
| APS6 | 4 |
| APS 4 & 5 | 12 |
| APS 1-3 | 39 |

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(C) As at 31 March 2012, the department employed 422 contractors through a combination of service level/panel contracts or direct hire contracts. The average length of current contracts is 7.2 months.

| | Direct Contract | Service Level Contract / Panel Providers |
|--------------|------------------------|---|
| DFAT | 31 | 236 |
| APO* | 137 | |
| OPO* | 18 | |
| | 186 | 236 |
| Total | 422 | |

* Australian Passport Office (APO) and Overseas Property Office (OPO) are funded through special agreements/accounts.

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Question No. 74

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Provide details of what staffing changes have occurred in each department/agency from the 2012-13 budget. Provide a list of additional and/or redundant positions, the classification and the program those positions are part of or have been taken from.

Answer

For 2012-13 DFAT has a forecast average staffing level of **3,831** of which

- **2,249** are **A-based** employees; and
- **1,582** are **locally engaged** employees.

The following table compares the 2011-12 PAES (as per the 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Additional Estimates) and the forecast average staffing level for 2012-13 (as per the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements):

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| | 2011-12 PAES | PBS 2012-13 | Variation |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Outcome 1 | | | |
| A-based Staff | 1,335.3 | 1,283.27 | (51.99) |
| LES | 798.7 | 797.66 | (1.01) |
| Total | 2,134 | 2,080.93 | (52.99) |
| Outcome 2.1 Consular | | | |
| A-based Staff | 163.5 | 147.42 | (16.06) |
| LES | 214.1 | 213.84 | (0.27) |
| Total | 378 | 361.26 | (16.33) |
| Outcome 2.2 Passports | | | |
| A-based Staff | 422.9 | 412.35 | (10.56) |
| LES | 270.5 | 270.11 | (0.34) |
| Total | 693 | 682.47 | (10.91) |
| <i>Outcome 2 - Total</i> | | | |
| A-based Staff | 586.4 | 559.78 | (26.63) |
| LES | 484.6 | 483.95 | (0.61) |
| Total | 1,071 | 1,043.73 | (27.24) |
| Outcome 3 | | | |
| A-based Staff | 369.4 | 406.40 | 37.03 |
| LES | 300.8 | 300.39 | (0.38) |
| Total | 670 | 706.79 | 36.65 |
| Total All Outcomes | | | |
| A-based Staff | 2,291.0 | 2,249.45 | (41.58) |
| LES | 1,584.0 | 1,582.00 | (2.00) |
| Total | 3,875.0 | 3,831.45 | (43.58) |

Changes to average staffing levels are a result of a number of factors including changes in passport issue rates, conversion of contractors into Australia Public Service personnel and new budget decisions which can be found in the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements.

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Question No. 75

Program: DFAT

Topic: Minister's portfolio - Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please list the SES positions you have in your department/agency in this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

Answer

As at 31 March, the department had 241 SES positions, of which 6 are non-ongoing (this excludes the Secretary and the Director-General of the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office)

The 241 positions are as follows -

| Position | Number |
|--|---------------|
| Deputy Secretary Positions (Canberra) | 4 |
| First Assistant Secretary Level Positions (Canberra) | 24 |
| Assistant Secretary Level Positions (Canberra) | 61 |
| Head Of Mission/Post Positions | 94 |
| SES Positions Overseas | 26 |
| Directors of State Offices in Australia | 2 |
| Off-Line (including language training and secondments) | 30 |
| Total SES Positions | 241 |

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Question No. 76

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please details including costs and what the training is.

Answer

The bulk of training for the 2012 graduate intake will occur in the 2012 calendar year. There is no training planned as yet in 2013 for the 2012 graduate intake.

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Question No. 77

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer

The total cost for recruiting the 2012 Policy and Corporate Graduate intake was \$322,124.21 (including GST). The breakdown of costs is as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Advertising (including print and online ads) | \$10,723.31 |
| Printing of brochures | \$4,248.34 |
| University visits/careers fairs | \$6,218.33 |
| Outsourced recruitment services (including administrative support, scribing etc) | \$77,597.41 |
| Online cognitive and behavioural testing | \$66,821.50 |
| Selection committee costs | \$102,591.11 |
| Accommodation and travel (airfares) for candidates to attend interviews in Canberra | \$53,924.21 |

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Question No. 78

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- (A) *What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?*
- (B) *Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.*
- (C) *Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.*
- (D) *Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.*
- (E) *Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.*
- (F) *Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.*
- (G) *What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?*

Answer

- (A) The total cost of advertising for the Department for the financial year to 31 May 2012 is \$4,289,123.
- (B) \$3,926,590 of advertising expenditure as at 31 May 2012 was for Smartraveller campaign advertising. The businesses that provided the services were The Campaign Palace, Universal McCann, Professional Public Relations and Etcom.

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- (C) The Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD) provided advice on Smartraveller campaign advertising throughout its development.
- (D) Yes, in relation to the Smartraveller campaign.
- (E) The department's policies comply with the "Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies" as set by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- (F) There was no other communications program.
- (G) Non-campaign advertising is expected to remain consistent. The Smartraveller campaign will continue in 2012-13.

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Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 79

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.*
- (B) *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.*
- (C) *What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.*
- (D) *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.*
- (E) *What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.*
- (F) *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.*
- (G) *What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.*
- (H) *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.*
- (I) *Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?*

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Answer

(A) & (C): As at 31 May 2012 the department spent \$4.70 million on hospitality and entertainment in Australia and overseas.

This expenditure is primarily intended to facilitate contacts with politicians, government, civic and military officials, business people, journalists, academics and other influential people and organisations in the host country.

These contacts assist officers in promoting Australia's interest and policies, and in seeking information that will form the basis of future reporting.

Records of hospitality and entertainment expenditure are maintained on individual files across DFAT's Australian and Overseas network. To provide hospitality and entertainment expenditure by date, location, purpose and cost of each event would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

(B) & (D) For expenditure on hospitality and entertainment for the period 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012 refer to the answer to Question on Notice 75.

Between 1 March and 30 June 2012, expenditure on hospitality and entertainment for each Minister's and Parliamentary Secretary's Office was as follows:

| | |
|----------|--|
| Date | 28 March 2012 |
| Location | Senator Carr's Office, Suite M1-27, Parliament House |
| Purpose | Morning tea with the Indonesian Foreign Minister |
| Cost | \$40 |

(E) & (G) The Department's projected hospitality and entertainment expenditure for 2012-13 is expected to be similar to expenditure patterns in 2011-12.

- (F) Nil
- (H) Nil
- (I) No.

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Question No. 80

Program: DFAT

Topic: Board Appointments

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.*
- (B) *What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?*
- (C) *Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.*

Answer

- (A) All boards including board titles, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members are listed below.
- (B) The gender ratio for each board follows.
The gender ratio for boards across the department is 33.96 per cent female (not including ex officio members)
- (C) Appointments to each board for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May are listed below.

Australia Awards

- (A) Title: Australia Awards.
Terms of appointment: Members are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research.
Tenure of appointment: 2 years with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Professor Geoff Gallop AC | Chair | 13/05/2011 | 12/05/2013 |
| The Hon Bruce Baird AM | Member | 13/05/2011 | 12/05/2013 |
| Ms Simone Bartley | Member | 13/05/2011 | 12/05/2013 |
| Ms Jillian Broadbent AO | Member | 13/05/2011 | 12/05/2013 |
| Professor Peter Coaldrake AO | Member | 13/05/2011 | 12/05/2013 |
| Secretary DFAT | ex officio | ongoing | |
| Director General AusAID | ex officio | ongoing | |
| Secretary DIISRTE | ex officio | ongoing | |

- (B) Gender ratio: 40 per cent female (not including ex officio).
- (C) No board appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May.

Australia-China Council (ACC)

- (A) Title: Australia-China Council.
Terms of appointment: Members are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade.
Tenure of appointment: 5 years for Chair, 3 years for member.

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Members:

| | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|
| The Hon. Warwick Smith AM | Chair | 9/09/2011 | 8/09/2016 |
| Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown | Deputy Chair | 1/11/2010 | 31/10/2013 |
| Professor Susan Street | Member | 1/11/2010 | 31/10/2013 |
| Mr Peter Cleary | Member | 31/08/2009 | 30/08/2012 |
| Mr Chris Clark | Member | 10/09/2009 | 9/09/2012 |
| Ms Suhanya Raffel | Member | 1/11/2010 | 31/10/2013 |
| Professor Fiona Wood FRACS AM | Member | 1/02/2011 | 31/01/2014 |
| Dr Heather Smith, (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 42.85 per cent female (not including ex officio).

(C) One board appointment for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - Chair of the Board, The Hon. Warwick Smith AM.

Australia-India Council (AIC)

(A) Title: Australia-India Council.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. All members (other than the Chair and the ex officio) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: up to 5 years with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mr John McCarthy, AO | Chairman | 14/12/2009 | 13/12/2012 |
| Ms Suzanne Davies | Member | 1/08/2010 | 31/07/2013 |
| Professor Brien Holden OAM | Member | 7/09/2009 | 6/09/2012 |
| Professor Margaret Sheil | Member | 7/09/2009 | 6/09/2012 |
| Professor Gillian Whitlock | Member | 7/09/2009 | 6/09/2012 |
| Mr Paul Robilliard (DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 60 per cent female (not including ex officio).

(C) No board appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May.

Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII)

(A) Title: Australia-Indonesia Institute.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. All members (other than the Chair and the ex officio) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair), part-time basis for 3 years (members) with the possibility of re-appointment.

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Members:

| | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Professor Tim Lindsey | Chair | 9/02/2011 | 8/02/2013 |
| Andrew Donovan | Member | 26/06/2012 | 17/06/2015 |
| Professor Bruce Robinson | Member | 26/06/2012 | 17/06/2015 |
| Mr Greg Sheridan | Member | 26/06/2012 | 28/07/2015 |
| Professor Julia Howell | Member | 10/02/2011 | 9/02/2014 |
| Professor David Hill | Member | 10/02/2011 | 9/02/2014 |
| Dr James Bradfield | Member | 10/02/2011 | 9/02/2014 |
| Ms Rufiath Yousuff | Member | 10/02/2011 | 9/02/2014 |
| Professor Clare Martin | Member | 5/10/2011 | 4/10/2014 |
| Ms Gillian Bird (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | Ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 30 per cent female (not including ex officio)

(C) Three board re-appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May – Mr Greg Sheridan (second reappointment), Mr Andrew Donovan and Professor Bruce Robinson.

Australia International Cultural Council (AICC)

(A) Title: Australia International Cultural Council (AICC).

The terms of all AICC board members, other than ex officio members, expired mid-March 2011 and no new members have been appointed.

Ex officio members as at March 2011:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Ms Sally Basser, First Assistant Secretary, Office for the Arts, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport. | ex officio |
| Ms Gillian Bird, (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio |
| Mr Bruce Dover, Chief Executive, Australia Network. | ex officio |
| Dr Ruth Harley, Chief Executive Officer, Screen Australia. | ex officio |
| Ms Kathy Keele, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Council | ex officio |
| Mr Peter Grey, Chief Executive Officer, Austrade | ex officio |
| Mr Andrew McEvoy, Managing Director, Tourism Australia. | ex officio |
| Ms Penny Hutchinson, Director, Arts Victoria. | ex officio |

(B) Gender ratio: 50 per cent female, all ex officio.

(C) No board appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May.

Australia-Japan Foundation

(A) Title: Australia-Japan Foundation.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. All members (other than the Chair and the ex officio) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair) and for 3 years (Members) with the possibility of re-appointment.

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Members:

| | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr Murray McLean OAM, Chairman | Chairman | 1/01/2012 | 31/12/2016 |
| Mr Peter Yates AM | Member | 1/02/2010 | 1/02/2013 |
| Mr Tim Lester | Member | 1/02/2010 | 1/02/2013 |
| Mr Tony Ellwood | Member | 1/03/2010 | 1/03/2013 |
| Professor Kate Darian-Smith | Member | 1/03/2010 | 1/03/2013 |
| Mr Greg Earl | Member | 1/03/2010 | 1/03/2013 |
| Ms Melanie Brock | Member | 1/03/2010 | 1/03/2013 |
| Dr Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 28.57 per cent female (not including ex officio).

(C) One board appointment for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May – Mr Murray McLean OAM, Chairman.

Australia-Korea Foundation (AKF)

(A) Title: Australia-Korea Foundation.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. All members (other than the Chair and the ex officio) are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 5 years (Chair) and for 3 years (Members) with the possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

| | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Mr David Palmer | Chairman | 17/07/2008 | 16/07/2013 |
| Dr Bronwen Dalton | Member | 15/09/2009 | 14/09/2012 |
| Professor Chung-Sok Suh | Member | 12/07/2011 | 31/12/2012 |
| Mr Carrillo Gantner AO | Member | 29/04/2011 | 28/04/2014 |
| Mr James Casey | Member | 11/07/2011 | 10/07/2014 |
| Professor Michael Manton FTSE | Member | 2/02/2012 | 1/02/2015 |
| Dr Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 16.70 per cent female (not including ex officio).

(C) Two board appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - Mr James Casey and Professor Michael Manton; one re-appointment - Professor Chung-Sok Suh.

Australia-Malaysia Institute (AMI)

(A) Title: Australia-Malaysia Institute

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson and members (other than the ex officio member) shall be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years with possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

| | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Professor Lance Twomey AO | Chairman | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Mr Christian Bennett | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Ms Geraldine Doogue AO | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Ms Rechelle Hawkes OAM | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Ms Kathe Kirby | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Dr Gaik Cheng Khoo | Member | 4/05/2012 | 3/05/2015 |
| Mr Kee Wong | Member | 4/05/2012 | 3/05/2015 |
| Ms Gillian Bird (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |

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(B) Gender ratio: 57% female (not including ex officio).

(C) Five board members reappointed for the financial year 2011-12 - Professor Lance Twomey AO, Mr Christian Bennett, Ms Geraldine Doogue AO, Ms Rechelle Hawkes and Ms Kathe Kirby. Two new board members appointed - Dr Gaik Cheng Khoo and Mr Kee Wong.

Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI)

(A) Title: Australia-Thailand Institute.

Terms of appointment: The Chair and members (other than the ex-officio member) shall be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years with possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

| | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr Mike Courtall | Chairman | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Mr John Hancock | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Mr Michael Laverty | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Mr Jim Middleton | Member | 9/04/2012 | 8/04/2015 |
| Dr Kaye Eldridge | Member | 4/05/2012 | 3/05/2015 |
| Ms Annette Ellis | Member | 4/05/2012 | 3/05/2015 |
| Ms Dusadee Coulson | Member | 4/05/2012 | 3/05/2015 |
| Ms Margie West AM | Member | 1/11/2009 | 31/10/2012 |
| Ms Gillian Bird (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 50% female (not including ex officio)

(C) Four board members reappointed for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - Mr Mike Courtall, Mr John Hancock, Mr Michael Laverty and Mr Jim Middleton. Three new board members appointed - Dr Kaye Eldridge, Ms Annette Ellis and Ms Dusadee Coulson.

Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR)

(A) Title: Council for Australian-Arab Relations.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson and members of the board (other than ex officio members) shall be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs with the agreement of the Minister for Trade.

Tenure of appointment: 3 years for members.

Members:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Mr Ahmed Fahour | Chairman | 31/01/2011 | 30/12/2013 |
| Dr Glen Simpson | Deputy Chairman | 31/01/2011 | 30/12/2013 |
| Mr Anthony Abraham | Member | 10/12/2009 | 9/12/2012 |
| Dr Anne Aly | Member | 10/12/2009 | 9/12/2012 |
| The Hon Steve Bracks, AC | Member | 22/09/2011 | 22/07/2014 |
| Mr Syd Giller | Member | 10/12/2009 | 9/12/2012 |
| Ms Libby Lloyd, AM | Member | 10/12/2009 | 9/12/2012 |
| Dr Kevin Moriarty | Member | 10/12/2009 | 9/12/2012 |
| Mr Paul Robilliard (DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |
| Mr David Landers (Austrade) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 25 per cent female (not including ex officio).

(C) One board appointment for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - The Hon Steve Bracks AC. Two ex officio appointments - Mr David Landers and Mr Paul Robilliard.

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Council on Australia Latin American Relations (COALAR)

(A) Title: Council on Australia Latin American Relations (COALAR).

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson and members of the board (other than ex officio members) shall be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Minister for Trade. Chair and members may be re-appointed for a term.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years.

Members:

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr David Luboff | Chairperson | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2013 |
| Mr Richard Egerton-Warburton AO | Deputy Chair | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2012 |
| Professor Margaret Gardner AO | Member | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2013 |
| Ms Cristina Talacko | Member | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2013 |
| Mr Craig Foster | Member | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2013 |
| Mr Rob Grant | Member | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2013 |
| Mr Greg Martin | Member | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2013 |
| Mr Charlie Sartain | Member | 1/07/2010 | 30/06/2012 |
| Ms Heather Smith (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | ongoing | |
| Mr Peter Grey (Austrade) | ex officio | ongoing | |
| Mr Colin Walters (DIISRTE) | ex officio | ongoing | |

(B) Gender ratio: 25 per cent female (not including ex officio).

(C) No new board appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May.

Editorial Advisory Board

(A) Chair and Six Member appointed 2 May 2012 until 30 June 2015.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson and members of the board shall be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Chair and members may be appointed for further terms.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 4 years.

Members:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr Kim Jones AM | Chairperson | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |
| Professor David Lowe | Member | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |
| Professor Marilyn Lake | Member | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |
| Professor Ann Capling | Member | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |
| Professor Peter Edwards | Member | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |
| Mr Ian Hancock | Member | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |
| Dr Leanne Piggott | Member | 2/05/2012 | 30/06/2015 |

(B) Gender ratio: 28 per cent female.

(C) Seven appointments made for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - Mr Kim Jones AM, Professor David Lowe, Professor Marilyn Lake, Professor Ann Capling, Professor Peter Edwards, Mr Ian Hancock and Dr Leanne Piggott.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

(A) Title: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

Terms of appointment: All appointments are made in accordance with the EFIC Act 1991.

Tenure of appointment: Part-time basis for 3 years, possible re-appointment for a second term or third terms if the member has been appointed at any time as the Chairperson.

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Members:

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Mr Angus Armour | Managing Director | 31/10/2003 | By Board decision |
| Mr Andrew Mohl | Chairperson | 9/12/2011 | 8/12/2014 |
| Ms Sally Pitkin | Deputy Chairperson | 1/08/2010 | 31/07/2013 |
| Mr Bruce Brook | Member | 1/03/2010 | 28/02/2013 |
| Ms Jennifer Seabrook | Member | 5/04/2011 | 4/04/2014 |
| Mr David Evans | Member | 9/12/2011 | 8/12/2014 |
| Ms Deena Shiff | Member | 9/12/2011 | 8/12/2014 |
| Mr Nicholas Minogue | Member | 9/12/2011 | 8/12/2014 |
| Mr Dennis Richardson (Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | 15/3/2010 | ongoing |
| Mr Bruce Gosper (Deputy Secretary DFAT) | ex officio | 4/3/2011 | ongoing |

(B) Gender ratio: 37.50 per cent female (not including ex officio members).

(C) Four new board appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May – Mr Andrew Mohl, Mr David Evans, Ms Deena Shiff and Mr Nicholas Minogue. Also, Ms Sally Pitkin appointed to permanent Deputy Chair position.

Australian National Commission for UNESCO

(A) Title: Australian National Commission for UNESCO.

Terms of appointment: The Chairperson and community members shall be appointed by the Minister; the members will be Australian citizens. The Parliamentary Observers are nominated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs until ceasing to be members of the Senate or House of Representatives or Dissolution of the House of Representatives, whichever is sooner. The Minister will consult the Leader of the Opposition in appointing the Parliamentary Observer representing the Opposition.

Tenure of appointment: part-time basis for up to 4 years; with possibility of re-appointment.

Members:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Ms Anthea Tinney | Chair | 16/06/2009 | 15/06/2013 |
| Mr Martin Hadlow | Deputy Chair and specialist member | 09/04/2012 | 08/04/2016 |
| Professor Denise Bradley AO | Specialist member | 16/06/2009 | 15/06/2013 |
| Dr James Bradfield Moody | Specialist member | 16/06/2009 | 15/06/2013 |
| Professor Abdullah Saeed | Specialist member | 16/06/2009 | 15/06/2013 |
| Ms Chrissy Grant | Specialist member | 09/04/2012 | 08/04/2016 |
| Mr Benson Saulo | Youth member | 09/04/2012 | 08/04/2016 |
| Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP | Parliamentary Observer | | |
| Senator Marise Payne | Parliamentary Observer | | |

Departmental Representatives:

| | | |
|---------|------------|---------|
| DFAT | ex officio | ongoing |
| DBCDE | ex officio | ongoing |
| SEWPaC | ex officio | ongoing |
| DEEWR | ex officio | ongoing |
| DIAC | ex officio | ongoing |
| DIISRTE | ex officio | ongoing |
| DHA | ex officio | ongoing |
| AusAID | ex officio | ongoing |

(B) Gender ratio: 42.86 per cent female (not including ex officio or Parliamentary Observers).

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(C) One new appointment for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - Mr Benson Saulo as the youth representative to the Board. Two re-appointments for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May - Mr Martin Hadlow and Ms Chrissy Grant as the Deputy Chair and specialist member to the Board, and specialist member to the Board, respectively.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) – Policy Advisory Council (ACIARPAC)

This was tasked separately by MCP.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) – Commission for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR Commission)

This was tasked separately by MCP.

Question No. 81

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?*
- (B) *What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?*
- (C) *How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?*
- (D) *How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?*

Answer

- (A) The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), established under the *Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010*, provides advice to all agencies governed by the Freedom of Information Act 1982 with respect to responding to FOI requests. This advice is available at http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines. From time to time, this advice is updated. In recent months, there have been some updates to these guidelines. The online version represents the most up-to-date version of the advice.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments on 28 July 2011. This is available at http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm. There has been no update to this advice since it was issued.

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- (B) Each year, DFAT compiles information on staff-hours and non-labour costs relating to FOI, which is provided to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OAIC). The OAIC uses its own methodology to estimate the cost for each agency. This final cost information is published on the OAIC website in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 Annual Report*. For 2011-2012, DFAT provided its inputs to the OAIC, including estimated total staff-hours of 13710 and non-labour costs of \$9562.
- (C) In terms of requests received, requests processed and processing times, DFAT provided the following data to the OAIC covering the period 1 July 2011 – June 30 2012.

DFAT received 175 FOI requests between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. During that period,

- 33 requests resulted in access being granted in full,
- 84 requests resulted in access being granted in part,
- 28 requests resulted in access being denied in full, and
- 53 requests were withdrawn.

Processing times:

| | Applicable statutory time period met (30 days) | Up to 30 days over the applicable statutory time period | 31-60 days over the applicable statutory time period | 61-90 days over the applicable statutory time period | More than 90 days over the applicable statutory time period |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | 40 | 36 | 31 | 15 | 25 |

A range of extensions of time are permitted under the FOI Act. Response times over 30 days do not necessarily indicate that the response is overdue, once statutory extensions are allowed for. Nevertheless, in some cases the Department's response has occurred after the processing time has elapsed. As at 17 July 2012, there are two requests outstanding for which processing time has expired.

Where delays occur, these are usually associated with large and/or complex requests, which require extensive analysis and consultation. The Department has an obligation under the FOI Act to ensure that it makes sound decisions. The Department has experienced a significant increase in the number of FOI requests since the introduction of the FOI reforms in November 2010, including three times the rate of complex FOI requests.

- (D) None.

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Question No. 82

Program: DFAT

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?*
- (B) *How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location.*
- (C) *How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.*
- (D) *How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.*

Answer

- (A) Information on Ministers' domestic travel costs is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD).
- (B) The Foreign Minister attended three Community Cabinet meetings in the 2011-12 financial year.
 - a. Foreign Minister Rudd attended the 3 October 2011 Community Cabinet held in Kingston, Tasmania.
 - b. Foreign Minister Rudd attended the 9 November 2011 Community Cabinet meeting held in Werribee, Victoria.
 - c. Foreign Minister Carr attended the 4 April Community Cabinet meeting held in Parramatta, New South Wales.

The Trade Minister did not attend any Community Cabinet meetings in the 2011-12 financial year.

- (C) Information on Ministerial Staff domestic travel, including costs, is available from DoFD.

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- (D) One to two departmental officers (from State Offices) attended each Community Cabinet meeting in the 2011-12 financial year. Costs were absorbed in the department's operating budget.
- a. One departmental officer (from the State Office) attended the 1 September 2011 Community Cabinet meeting held in Yeronga, QLD. No portfolio Ministers were present. The costs involved were negligible and absorbed as part of normal operations.
 - b. The State Office Director attended the 3 October 2011 Community Cabinet held in Kingston, Tasmania. The Foreign Minister was present. The costs involved were negligible and absorbed as part of normal operations.
 - c. Two departmental officers (from the State Office) attended the 9 November 2011 Community Cabinet meeting held in Werribee, Victoria. The Foreign Minister was present. The costs involved were negligible and were absorbed as part of normal operations.
 - d. The State Office Director and Deputy Director attended the 4 April Community Cabinet meeting held in Parramatta, New South Wales. The Foreign Minister was present. The costs involved were negligible and absorbed as part of normal operations.
 - e. One departmental officer (from the State Office) attended the 16 May 2012 Community Cabinet meeting held in Berwick, Victoria. No portfolio Ministers were present. The costs involved were negligible and absorbed as part of normal operations.

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Question No. 83

Program: DFAT

Topic: Reviews

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For the current financial year (2011-12) to date (30 May 2012):

- (A) How many Reviews are being undertaken?*
- (B) What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?*
- (C) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?*
- (D) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?*
- (E) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?*
- (F) What reviews are planned?*
- (G) When will each of these reviews be concluded?*

Answer

- (A) None.
- (B) None.
- (C) Not applicable.
- (D) Not applicable.
- (E) Not applicable.
- (F) None.
- (G) Not applicable.

Question No. 84

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A) *How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.*
- B) *How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.*

Answer

- (A) Details of all consultancy contracts valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2011-12 are available on AusTender – the Commonwealth’s procurement reporting system. When contracts are awarded, the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender. To provide details of consultancies and contracts awarded valued at less than \$10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- (B) Four (4) consultancies are planned for 2012-13 and these are included in DFAT’s Annual Procurement Plan. When contracts are awarded, the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender – the Commonwealth’s procurement reporting system.

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Question No. 85

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media Monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?*
- (B) *Which agency or agencies provided these services?*
- (C) *What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2011-2012?*
- (D) *What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?*

Answer

- (A) The total cost for all media monitoring services used by the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Trade in FY2011-12 was \$88,872.06.
- (B) Media Monitors
- (C) The estimated budget to provide media monitoring services for the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Trade in FY2011-12 was \$100,000.
- (D) For the first two weeks in FY2012-13, an estimated \$xxx has been expended in providing media monitoring services for the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Trade. (No invoices have been received for this FY to date, hence the provision of an estimate.)

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Question No. 86

Program: DFAT

Topic: Social Media

Question in Writing

Senator Eggelston

Question

Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

Answer

Please refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trades response to Question on Notice No. 83 from Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Additional Estimates 2011–2012; 16 February 2012. The text is repeated below for ease of reference.

“Yes. Internal Administrative Circulars entitled “DFAT Twitter Account” and “Publishing Images (Photographs and Videos) Online: Policies and Procedures” have been revised to incorporate links to the new Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) Protocol. In addition, the department’s Conduct and Ethics Manual provides general guidance to staff on this issue. Internal working papers of this nature are not tabled.”

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 87

Program: DFAT

Topic: Contractors

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- A) Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- B) Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- C) Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- D) Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- E) Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- F) Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- G) Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- H) Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- I) Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*

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J) What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

Answer

(A) No.

(B) No.

(C) No.

(D) No.

(E) No.

(F) No.

(G) No.

(H) Yes. During financial year 2011-12 DFAT engaged The Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd to provide management advisory services to the department. Details including the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender.

(I) No.

(J) Details of contracts valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2011-12 are available on AusTender – the Commonwealth's procurement reporting system. When contracts are awarded, the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender. To provide details of consultancies and contracts awarded valued at less than \$10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question No. 88

Program: DFAT

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.*
- (B) Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?*

Answer

- (A) A list of the department's grants is publicly available on the department's website which includes details of grant recipients, purpose and funding location.
- (B) The department administers its discretionary grants in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

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Question No. 89

Program: DFAT

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- B) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- C) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

- A) None for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May 2012.
- B) Not applicable.
- C) Not applicable

Question No. 90

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc. in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc. as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.*
- (B) *For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?*
- (C) *Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?*

Answer

- (A) The 2011-12 statistics relating to small business will be collated following the end of the financial year and will be provided to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) in response to their yearly survey. DIISRTE are expected to release this survey in September 2012.
- (B) Departmental practices accord with the requirements outlined in Finance Circular 2008/10 on the Procurement 30 Day Policy for Small Business. The department is aware of late payment interest penalty being paid for the 2011-12 financial year of \$8,263.31 as at 30 June 2012. The department is not aware of any late payment interest penalty being paid in the previous financial year.
- (C) The interest charge was calculated in accordance with the Finance Circular 2008/10. The penalty interest rate was determined at the GIC daily rate for the applicable quarter as detailed on the Australian Taxation Office website.

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Question No. 91

Program: DFAT

Topic: Stationery requirements

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?*
- (B) *What is the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?*
- (C) *What was the department/agency's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?*

Answer

- (A) For the period 1 July 2011 to 20 June 2012, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on stationery requirements for portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries was \$14,376.
- (B) & (C) During the past two financial years and year to date, DFAT's expenditure on stationery (including spending on Ministerial and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices) via DFAT's contracted stationery supplier was as follows:

| Year | Consumable stationery spending (including paper) |
|------------------------------|---|
| FY 2011-12 (to 20 June 2012) | \$ 397,703 |
| FY 2010-11 | \$ 345,687 |
| FY 2009-10 | \$ 497,200 |

Additional DFAT spending on stationery from vendors other than the Department's contracted stationery supplier, including local purchases by DFAT overseas posts, has not been included in the above figures as stationery is not included in as a separate item in the department's financial system. It would entail a significant diversion of resources to collate this information and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question No. 92

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government payments of accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Media Subscriptions

- (A) *Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?*
- *If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.*
 - *What is the cost for this financial year to date?*
- (B) *Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?*
- *If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers*
 - *What is the cost for this financial year to date?*
- (C) *Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?*
- *If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines*
 - *What is the cost for this financial year to date?*

Answer

(A), (B), (C) There have been no substantive changes to the arrangements for these subscriptions since the February 2012 Additional Estimates 2011-2012.

Television, newspaper and magazine subscriptions are decentralised and managed and budgeted by individual work units in Canberra, across 95 posts overseas and by 7 state and territory offices, according to their varying requirements. Aggregating subscriptions and their costs across all DFAT offices, both overseas, and in Australia would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

Question No. 93

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).*(B)
- (B) *For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).*
- (C) *Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.*
- (D) *Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.*
- (E) *When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.*

Answer

- (A)
- (i) Details for travel for the period 1 July to 31 October 2011 were provided in the response to Question on Notice No 170 from the October 2011 Supplementary Budget Estimates. Details for travel for the period 1 November 2011 to 29 February 2012 were provided in the response to Question on Notice No 90 from the February 2012 Additional Budget Estimates.
- (ii) Departmental officers are entitled to a travel allowance which covers food, beverages and incidentals. It is not possible to itemise separately the

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amounts spent on food, beverages, alcohol and incidentals for each staff member for each trip.

- (iv) In some cases a staff member may have a 'nil' response for travel costs (eg if the staff member accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary on a SPA flight), for accommodation costs (eg if the staff member stayed at the Official Residence or privately) or for travel allowance (eg if the staff member attended functions involving meals which were funded by the Australian or a foreign government, then that staff member would not be paid travel allowance for that meal).
- (v) The class of travel to which departmental officers are entitled is based on whether the staff member is SES or non-SES. All staff travel business class for international flights over two hours in duration. In the case of a single-sector trip (not including check-in time) of less than two hours in duration the class of travel is economy class for non-SES staff. This provision applies equally to return travel involving sectors of less than two hours duration. (If business class is not available, SES staff travel first class and non-SES staff travel the next class below business class.) Australian domestic travel that is part of an international journey will be of the same standard as the international component, wherever possible.
- (vi) The costs provided in this response are as at 30 June 2012. Some costs may still not have been finalised.

1. Senator Carr travelled to Cambodia, Vietnam and Singapore from 24 to 31 March 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|------------|
| (i) | 9,630.97 | (ii) | 660.16 | (iii) | 87.33 | (iv) | 30.00 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|------------|

2. Senator Carr travelled to the USA, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Malta from 9 to 28 April 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff members to the USA and one to Belgium. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Head, UNSC Task Force

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 9,962.72 | (ii) | 1,035.31 | (iii) | 517.73 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

First Assistant Secretary, Americas and Africa Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|--------------------------------|
| (i) | 10,901.00 | (ii) | 1,828.00 | (iii) | 788.00 | (iv) | 190.00 Visa and hospitality |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|--------------------------------|

Assistant Secretary, Pakistan and Afghanistan Branch

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(i) 8,410.97 (ii) 718.62 (iii) 735.97 (iv) Nil

3. Senator Carr travelled to Fiji from 30 April to 1 May 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff members. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

(i) Nil (ii) Nil (iii) 108.00 (iv) Nil

Director, Fiji Section, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch

(i) 38.72 (ii) 200.00 (iii) 92.32 (iv) Nil

4. Senator Carr travelled to China and Japan from 11 to 19 May 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, North Asia Division

(i) 9,224.70 (ii) 2,712.44 (iii) 803.17 (iv) Nil

5. Senator Carr travelled to Burma, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Libya, Algeria and Morocco from 5 to 22 June 2012.

Senator Carr was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Burma, one to Oman, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco, one to the United Kingdom and two to Turkey. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

(i) 9,259.88 (ii) Nil (iii) 786.17 (iv) Nil

First Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia Division

(i) 4,130.76 (ii) 269.08 (iii) 262.09 (iv) Nil

First Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia and Middle East Division

(i) 22,237.70 (ii) 2,207.97 (iii) 533.68 (iv) 30.00 Visa

First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division

(i) 9,981.10 (ii) 1,070.00 (iii) 253.86 (iv) 27.00 Visa

Executive Officer, Arms Control Section, Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation Branch

(i) 8,681.92 (ii) 1,141.58 (iii) 236.05 (iv) 49.25 Visa, fees

6. Dr Emerson travelled to Indonesia from 20 to 23 March 2012.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia Division

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(i) 351.64 (ii) 69.51 (iii) Nil (iv) 15.00 Visa

7. Dr Emerson travelled to Malaysia from 29 to 31 March 2012.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

(i) 5,614.38 (ii) 638.70 (iii) 30.33 (iv) Nil

8. Dr Emerson travelled to Chile, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico from 11 to 22 April 2012.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Chile, Brazil and Colombia and one to Mexico. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

(i) 9,795.18 (ii) Nil (iii) 301.14 (iv) 49.50 Visa

Assistant Secretary, Canada and Latin America Branch

(i) 14,243.00 (ii) 2,139.00 (iii) 1,143.00 (iv) 96.00 Visa and
hospitality

9. Dr Emerson travelled to Malaysia, France, Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Germany and Russia from 21 May to 7 June 2012.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member to Malaysia, one to France and Japan, one to France only, one to China and one to Russia. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

(i) 7,525.00 (ii) 1,331.45 (iii) 478.84 (iv) Nil

Special Negotiator, Free Trade Agreement Division

(i) 4,971.73 (ii) 332.56 (iii) 115.03 (iv) Nil

First Assistant Secretary, Office of Trade Negotiations

(i) 9,108.29 (ii) 1,114.43 (iii) 809.77 (iv) Nil

Assistant Secretary, East Asia Branch

(i) 6,397.42 (ii) 1,376.45 (iii) 1,485.43 (iv) Nil

Executive Officer, Trade Policy Section, Trade Policy Branch

(i) 6,867.71 (ii) 2,300.85 (iii) 882.50 (iv) Nil

10. Mr Marles travelled to Papua New Guinea from 6 to 10 March 2012.

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Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Director, Papua New Guinea and Torres Strait Section, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch

(i) 5,538.53 (ii) 1,421.94 (iii) 323.05 (iv) Nil

11. Mr Marles travelled to Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, New Caledonia, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands from 26 March to 3 April 2012.

Mr Marles was not accompanied by any Canberra-based DFAT staff on this visit.

12. Mr Marles travelled to Albania, Qatar, Andorra and San Marino from 19 to 27 April 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Northern Southern and Eastern Europe Branch

(i) 12,214.58 (ii) 1,495.31 (iii) 614.62 (iv) Nil

13. Mr Marles travelled to the USA and Suriname from 30 April to 7 May 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Director, Canada Central America and the Caribbean Section, Canada and Latin America Branch

(i) 16,015.68 (ii) Nil (iii) 63.00 (iv) Nil

14. Mr Marles travelled to the Republic of Marshall Islands from 10 to 12 May 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Pacific Regional and New Zealand Branch

(i) 936.91 (ii) 282.72 (iii) 144.23 (iv) Nil

15. Mr Marles travelled to Nauru and Solomon Islands from 15 to 18 May 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Pacific Islands Branch

(i) 455.27 (ii) 945.26 (iii) 65.84 (iv) Nil

16. Mr Marles travelled to Japan from 23 to 27 May 2012.

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Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Pacific Regional and New Zealand Branch

(i) 5,829.83 (ii) 1,042.63 (iii) 714.45 (iv) Nil

17. Mr Marles travelled to Samoa from 31 May to 2 June 2012.

Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff member. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for this staff member is as follows:

Director, Pacific Bilateral Section, Pacific Islands Branch

(i) 28.27 (ii) 279.82 (iii) 49.62 (iv) Nil

18. Mrs Elliot travelled to Russia from 25 March to 1 April 2012.

(A) Mrs Elliot was not accompanied by any Canberra-based DFAT staff on this visit.

(B) For this financial year (to 31 May 2012) the Department has spent \$25.57 million from its Operating Budget, on travel. This figure includes, airfares, accommodation, meals and incidentals and other expenses:

| F/Y | 2011-12 YTD |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Air fares | \$21.00m |
| Accommodation | \$2.18m |
| Travel Allow. | \$2.05m |
| Other | \$0.34m |
| Total Expenditure | \$25.57m |

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow all travel to be separately captured to provide a breakdown by airfare type. To provide details in this format would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

(C) Yes, the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines are followed by DFAT staff and compliance is monitored through the department's Travel Management Company, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT).

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(D) SES staff, as part of their conditions of service have a provision for one airline/club membership to be purchased at official expense. Wherever possible, SES staff are encouraged to pay for this membership with official frequent flyer points. Non SES staff are not eligible for membership at official expense of any airline's Club Lounge.

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow airline/club memberships to be separately captured to provide a breakdown. To provide details in this format would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

(E) Support staff and administrative staff in DFAT do not travel specifically to accompany or support SES officers. However, there may be a need to deploy support or administrative staff for other reasons not associated with providing SES support.

Question No. 94

Program: DFAT Portfolio Overview

Topic: Legal Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD within the department? Please provide a list of each service and costs.*
- (B) *What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.*
- (C) *What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.*
- (D) *What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.*

Answer

- (A) The total expenditure by the department (including both bills paid and payable) on external legal services for the 2011/12 financial year was \$3,088,198. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total legal services expenditure according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.
- (B) The total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the 2011/12 financial year was \$1,496,054 broken down as follows: (i) \$940,082 for commercial advice; (ii) \$119,811 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$436,161 for general advice.
- (C) The total expenditure by the department on legal services from private firms in Australia for the 2011/12 financial year was \$534,145 broken down as follows: (i) \$432,308 for commercial advice; (ii) \$40,963 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$60,874 for general advice.
- (D) The figures provided above in relation to total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor and private firms do not include the external legal services expenditure by posts overseas. This additional amount was \$1,057,999 for the 2011/12 financial year. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total external legal services expenditure by posts overseas according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.

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Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates 2011–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 95

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Education Expenses

Page: Written

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) *What are the department's guidelines on study? Please provide details.*

(B) *For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.*

Answer

(A) The department is committed to providing employees with the opportunity to pursue part-time study which is relevant to the department's policy and corporate objectives and human resources requirements. Before approving study leave, the following factors are taken into consideration:

1. the financial resources and operational needs of the department;
2. the work performance of the employee;
3. the career development needs of the employee; and
4. the number of working hours required.

Courses must be directly relevant to the department's core business. Approval is normally given on a semester-by-semester basis.

Courses must lead to or form part of a Higher Education Sector Accreditation provided by a university or other recognised higher education institution under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF comprises with the following qualifications under the Higher Education Sector Accreditation:

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Diploma, Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters Degree and Doctoral Degree.

For the 2011-12 FY, 55 DFAT employees undertook undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the following disciplines:

Aboriginal Studies
Accounting
Business
Commerce
Development
Finance Journalism
Government
International Relations
International Studies
Law
Management
Project Management
Psychology
Science
Strategic Affairs
Translation

(B) The total cost for the 2011-12 FY was \$69,409. The average cost per participant was \$1,652.

A total of 2056 hours of study leave was granted in the 2011-12 FY. The classification of employees receiving study leave ranged from APS3 to Executive Level 2 employees.

Approved study was undertaken to allow officers to develop their professional skills in academic disciplines that are relevant to the department's corporate objectives.

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Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 96

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Page: Written

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) *In relation to executive coaching and/or leadership training services purchased by each department, please provide the following for this FY to date:*

1. *Total spending on these services;*
2. *The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification;*
3. *The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) and;*
4. *The names of all service providers engaged.*

(B) *For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4) please provide:*

- a. *The name and nature of the service purchased;*
- b. *Whether the service is one-on-one or group based;*
- c. *The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification;*
- d. *The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);*
- e. *The total amount spent on the service; and*
- f. *A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package.*

(C) *Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:*

- i. *The location used;*
- ii. *The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);*
- iii. *The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and*
- iv. *Any costs to the department of agencies incurred to use the location.*

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Answer

(A)

1. For 2011-12 FY \$6930 was spent on executive coaching and \$340,417 on leadership training services.
2. Four Executive Level 1 employees were offered and took part in coaching services. A total of 872 executive employees were offered leadership training including all SES band levels; Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1 officers.
3. A total of 154 executive employees engaged in leadership training including all SES band levels, Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1 officers. Study leave was not granted to these employees for their training.
4. The May Group was the provider of the executive coaching services noted at A 4. Providers engaged for leadership development services are Yellow Edge; the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School; Melbourne Business School and the Australian New Zealand School of Government.

(B)

- b. Executive coaching services were provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership programs were group based.
- d. Executive coaching and leadership training totalled approximately 2921 hours for all executive employees.

(C)

- i. Training locations that were used externally included: the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston; Melbourne Business School; The May Group in Canberra, MTAA House Pty Ltd (Canberra); and Australian Government School of Management in Sydney.
- ii. A total of 43 executive employees were trained at external locations.
- iii. Training provided at external locations totalled approximately 1299 hours.
- iv. The cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of leadership training for DFAT executives was \$800.

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Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates 2012–2013; 30–31 May 2012

Question No. 97

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Media Training

Page: Written

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:*
- 1. Total spending on these services*
 - 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification*
 - 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted*
 - 4. The names of all service providers engaged*
- (B) *For each service purchased from a provider listed under 4. above, please provide:*
- 1. The name and nature of the service purchased*
 - 2. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based*
 - 3. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification*
 - 4. The total number of hours involved for all employees*
 - 5. The total amount spent on the service*
 - 6. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)*
- (C) *Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises please provide:*
- 1. The location used*
 - 2. The number of employees who took part on each occasion*
 - 3. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part*
 - 4. Any costs the department or agency incurred to use the location*

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Answer

(A)

1. For this FYTD, \$13,480 has been spent on media training.
2. Six SES Band 1 and five Executive Level 2 officers have utilised these services.
3. Six SES Band 1 and five Executive Level 2 officers have utilised these services. Study leave was not granted to these employees for their training.
4. Laurie Wilson and Associates was engaged to deliver media training.

(B)

1. The service, titled 'SES Media Skills' is a day-long workshop.
2. The training is delivered one-on-one and group based, covering media theory and practical interview skills. Six SES Band 1 and five Executive Level 2 officers have utilised these services.
3. Training provided totalled approximately 63 hours.
4. The total amount spent on the service is \$13, 480.
5. The fees were charged as a complete package.

(C)

1. Training locations that were used externally included: MTAA House Pty Ltd (Canberra) and the National Press Club (Canberra).
2. A total of three executive employees were trained at external locations.
3. Training provided at external locations totalled approximately 28 hours.
4. The cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of the media training was \$680.

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Question No. 98

Program: DFAT

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *Please list how many staff in the department are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?*
- (B) *For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.*

Answer

- (A) As at 30 June 2012, DFAT has been advised by the Family Assistance Office that 29 employees are eligible for payment under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme during financial year 2011-12.
- (B) For the year 2011-12, DFAT has provided 25 employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme. The breakdown of the number of employees by classification is:

| <u>Employees</u> | <u>Classification</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| nil | APS2 |
| 1 | APS3 |
| 3 | APS4 |
| 5 | APS5 |
| 5 | APS6 |
| 10 | EL1 |
| 1 | EL2 |
| nil | SES BAND 1 |
| nil | SES BAND 2 |
| nil | SES BAND 3 |

Question No. 99

Program: DFAT

Topic: Training for Portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *For the financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.*
- (B) *For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.*
- (C) *For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.*

Answer

- (A) NIL
- (B) For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on training for staff of portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries was \$484.84.
- Date 16 March 2012
- Location Australia Government Solicitor
- Purpose Minister for Trade and Competitiveness: Adviser's attendance at the 2012 AGS Legal Training Program – Introduction to FOI
- Cost \$484.84
- (C) NIL

Question No. 100

Program: DFAT

Topic: Corporate Cars

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *How many cars are owned by your department?*
- (B) *Where is the car/s located?*
- (C) *What is the car/s used for?*
- (D) *What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?*
- (E) *How far did each car travel this financial year to date?*

Answer

- (A) The department currently owns 451 motor vehicles.
- (B) DFAT's vehicles are dispersed across our 95 overseas posts.
- (C) The vehicles are used to perform departmental functions overseas. These range from Head of Mission vehicles used for representation to fleet vehicles used for diplomatic courier services.
- (D) Details and breakup of costs are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- (E) Details of car mileage are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question No. 101

Program: DFAT

Topic: Taxi Costs

Page: Written

Senator Eggleston

Question

How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.

What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer

Information on DFAT expenditure on taxis is not separately recorded. It would entail significant diversion of resources to collate this expenditure and to break it down into business groups. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified.

Question No. 102

Program: DFAT

Topic: Credit cards

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.*
- (B) What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?*
- (C) How is corporate credit card use monitored?*
- (D) What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?*
- (E) Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.*
- (F) What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?*

Answer

- (A)** 378 officers have an Australian corporate credit card. Information on officers' classifications and credit cards issued by DFAT overseas offices is not maintained centrally. It would entail a significant diversion of resources to collate this information and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- (B) & (D)** The matter is referred to the department's Conduct and Ethics Unit for investigation. If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.
- (C)** Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of the card statements for Australian issued cards is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.
- (E)** Departmental records over the last 6 years show no instances of misuse of credit cards. To go back further would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

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- (F) Cardholders are required to sign an agreement that sets out the conditions of use of the credit card, including the need to safeguard the card and card number and to provide supporting documentation to substantiate transactions. Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.

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Question No. 103

Program: DFAT

Topic: Printing of Documents

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Does the department/agency print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.

Answer

The following documents required by legislation were printed by the department in the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May 2012:

- . Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2010-2011. A total of 1900 copies were printed for delivery to Parliament, the public and internal use at a cost of \$24,260.85 (including GST).
- . Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office Annual Report 2010-2011. A total of 1100 copies were printed for delivery to Parliament, the public and internal use at a cost of \$18,784.08 (including GST).
- . Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2011-2012. A total of 500 copies were printed for delivery to Parliament and internal use at a cost of \$1,430 (including GST).
- . Portfolio Budget Statements 2012-2013. A total of 900 copies were printed for delivery to Parliament and internal use at a cost of \$6,930 (including GST).

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Question No. 104

Program: DFAT

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs.
- (B) For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- (C) Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list)) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
- (D) Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided

Answer

(A)

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides Information and Communications Technology (ICT) support for portfolio-related activities in accordance with Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFD) guidelines for:

- The Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness;
- The Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs;

- The Parliamentary Secretary for Trade; and
- their offices.

Included in this support is the provision of mobile phones to each Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and their staff. The phones are a mix of Blackberry and iPhones, and in one instance a Nokia X2.

As at 25 June 2012, the cost of purchasing each device is:

Blackberry: \$618.18
iPhone: \$726.36
Nokia X2: \$113.64*

Note: * This is an older phone with the equivalent model cost listed.

Ongoing costs vary depending on individual use patterns. Disaggregating costs down to the individual office or individual would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

(B)

Financial year 2011-12 to 31 March 2012: \$329,697
2009-10: \$551,172
2010-11: \$737,339

(C)

Yes, DFAT provides ICT equipment to departmental staff and to staff in other agencies/departments under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ICT Services.

The baseline ICT service package provided to DFAT staff consists of a desktop computer and desk phone. This is a standard offering to all staff and is not determined by classification.

Printers and multi-function devices (print, copy, scan and fax) are generally shared resources.

The provision of additional equipment such as mobile phones, blackberries, USB storage and laptops is determined by business need, typically related to specific job functions such as blackberries for travelling executives.

DFAT provides ICT services to over 40 other government agencies and departments under MOU which includes arrangements for cost recovery for these services. Typically this includes desktop computing services.

| Device | Cost per device |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Standard desktop (pc plus monitor) | \$1316.02 (CAFF and GST Inclusive) |
| Desktop phone | \$331.18 (ex GST) |
| Standard laptop (DELL Latitude E6320) | \$792.88 (CAFF and GST Inclusive) |
| Lightweight laptop (HP Elite Book 8460p) | \$830.19 (CAFF and GST Inclusive) |
| iPad | \$843.00 |
| iPhone | \$726.36 |
| Printer multi-function device (Xerox DocuCentre-IV C4470/4475) | \$9,097.94 (CAFF and GST Inclusive) |
| BlackBerry 9900 | \$618.18 |
| Nokia C2-01* | \$113.64 |
| USB 4G Modem | \$193.64 |

Note: All equipment is procured under the Desktop and Major Office Machines (MOM) whole of government panel arrangements.

DFAT's position is that disaggregating ICT costs down to the individual staff and classification level would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

(D)

Since the February 2012 response to Question on Notice 100, Senator Carr was appointed as Foreign Minister on 13 March 2012. The Department provides ICT equipment to Senator Carr and his office.

Question No. 105

Program: DFAT

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *Provide an update of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.*
- (B) *What were the department/agency electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?*
- (C) *What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?*

Answer

- (A) The department is a party to the Whole of Government electricity contract for government agencies based in the ACT. The contract is with ERM Power Retail Pty Ltd and was signed on 20 May 2011 for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015.

The department does not have electricity purchasing agreements for State, Territory and Passport Offices located outside of the ACT. Electricity arrangements are determined by the building owners at these locations.

- (B) The below figures relate to domestic electricity expenditure only

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| • 2009-10 | \$1,927,626 |
| • 2010-11 | \$2,116,425 |

- (C) The below figures relate to domestic electricity expenditure only

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| • 2011-12 to 31 March 2012 | \$1,389,757 |
|----------------------------|-------------|

Question No. 106

Program: DFAT

Topic: Information on the Australian Greens and Independents

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:*
- (B) *How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?*
- (C) *What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each work produced.*
- (D) *Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were and why it could not be undertaken.*
- (E) *How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.*
- (F) *Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:*
- (G) *How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?*
- (H) *What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details, including who the work/information was for and a copy of each work produced.*
- (I) *Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were, who they were from, who they were for and why it could not be undertaken.*
- (J) *How long is spent undertaken work and/or information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.*

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Answer

- (A) The Department provides assistance to all Federal Parliamentarians, including the Australian Greens and Independents, in relation to overseas study tours and visits.
- (B) Assistance is normally requested from parliamentarians' offices and forwarded to geographic or line areas in DFAT or to Australian embassies overseas.
- (C)
 - (i) Senator Bob Brown and Senator Rachael Siewart visited Dakar for a Global Greens Conference from 27 March to 1 April 2012. No assistance was requested from DFAT and this information was sent to for post for information only.
 - (ii) A confidential oral brief for Senator Bob Brown's Chief of Staff was provided on a sensitive kidnapping case; a similar brief was provided to the Opposition Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs.
- (D) No.
- (E) It is considered to be an unreasonable use of resources to compile this information, although the allocation of resources to these tasks has not been onerous.
- (F) As per Answer (A).
- (G) As per Answer (B).
- (H) Mr Tony Windsor, Independent Member for New England, requested assistance from DFAT with planning a parliamentary study tour to Europe in July - August 2011. Assistance was provided by Posts with organising meetings consistent with assistance provided to all Federal Parliamentarians.
- (I) No.
- (J) As per answer (E).

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Question No. 107

Program: DFAT

Topic: Shredders

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders in the last 12 mths? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer

Yes. Details of the purchase of shredders are maintained on individual files across DFAT's Australian and overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified. Shredders are used by DFAT for shredding classified material.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2012–2013; 30-31 May 2012

Question No. 108

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ambassador to the Holy See

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Concerning the appointment of John McCarthy as ambassador to the Holy See, were any other persons considered for the position?

If 'yes' could you advise who the other candidates were?

Answer

Head of Mission and Head of Post appointments are decisions for the Government. The department does not comment on the processes surrounding Head of Mission appointments.

Question No. 109

Program: DFAT

Topic: Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- (A) *In February we learnt that the Government was considering the issue of joining the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. What has the Government done since February on this issue?*
- (B) *When will the Government commit to joining the Voluntary Principles?*
- (C) *If no commitment can be made, why not?*
- (D) *What resources have been allocated to enable the Government to participate in the Voluntary Principles including resources to properly consult with civil society and company stakeholders, and resources to prepare a National Plan as required by initiative?*

Answer

- (A) Since February, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism have undertaken a wide range of consultative meetings with relevant industry associations, individual companies, civil society and non-governmental organisations, and academic experts on the question of joining the Voluntary Principles initiative. AusAID participated in some of those consultations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade also sent an officer to attend the Annual Plenary of the Voluntary Principles initiative on 27-28 March in Ottawa as an invited guest. This provided an opportunity to consult more closely with other governmental, industry and civil society participants in the initiative and make a first-hand assessment of how the initiative works.

These consultations and assessments will provide the necessary information for an informed a decision by the Government on whether to join the initiative.

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(B) The Government is likely to undertake final consideration of whether to join the Voluntary Principles initiative after the completion of stakeholder consultations and internal deliberations, which are scheduled to be concluded shortly.

(C) See answer to (B).

(D) Consultation with stakeholders has been undertaken within existing resources.

No additional resources to prepare a National Plan have been allocated pending the Government's consideration of whether to join the initiative.

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Question No. 110

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

With whom has Ms Williams met both within and external to Government since her appointment?

Answer

In the months following her appointment on 13 September 2011, Ms Williams has met with as many people as possible who have an interest in gender equality, both domestically and internationally. She has consulted broadly and regularly across government and the development community in establishing and pursuing her agenda, position priorities and program. She has had meetings and represented the government at events in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, as well as Brazil, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, US, and Vanuatu.

It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide the details of everyone with whom Ms Williams has met since her appointment.

Question No. 111

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

Where has Ms Williams travelled, with whom and for what purposes?

Answer

- Ms Williams accompanied Mr Rudd and other members of an Australian delegation to the US (San Francisco and New York) from 14 September to 25 September 2011. In San Francisco, Ms Williams attended the APEC Women and the Economy Summit and in New York she attended UNGA side events on women's political participation, and met with key multilateral contacts (such as UN Women, YWCA, the World Bank).
- Ms Williams travelled to Vanuatu from 10-12 October 2011 to meet with government, non-government and civil society interlocutors and conduct a field visit to AusAID funded projects targeting the needs of women and girls
- Ms Williams travelled to Papua New Guinea from 22-26 November 2011 to participate in activities in the lead up to and during White Ribbon Day and to conduct a field visit to AusAID funded projects targeting the needs of women and girls
- Ms Williams travelled to Solomon Islands, FSM, Tuvalu and Samoa, 13-16 December 2011 with a parliamentary delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, the Hon Richard Marles and including the Hon Julie Bishop, Mr Bernie Ripoll and the Hon Teresa Gambaro. Ms Williams' participation gave the trip a particular focus on gender equality and gender-based violence.
- Ms Williams travelled to New York from 25 February to 4 March 2012 as a member of Australia's delegation to the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She delivered Australia's national statement at the Commission, spoke at government and NGO-hosted side events and completed an extensive program of bilateral meetings with other delegation heads, UN organisations and civil society representatives.

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- Ms Williams travelled to Fiji (7-9 March 2012) for International Women's Day. She met with interim government representatives and civil society, visited aid projects, launched an AusAID report, conducted an extensive media program, and co-chaired a Pacific Leadership Program Roundtable focusing on issues of women's political participation and eliminating violence against women.
- Ms Williams travelled to Fiji (7-9 March 2012) for International Women's Day. She met with interim government representatives and civil society, visited aid projects, launched an AusAID report, conducted an extensive media program, and co-chaired a Pacific Leadership Program Roundtable focusing on issues of women's political participation and eliminating violence against women.
- Ms Williams travelled to Indonesia, 30 April-4 May 2012. She had high level meetings with government officials and civil society representatives to discuss violence against women, women in leadership, sexual and reproductive health. She had roundtable meetings on migrant worker, trafficking, servitude, access to education and health services, and interfaith issues. Ms Williams visited AusAID health, education and income generation projects.
- Ms Williams travelled to Brazil (18-24 June) to participate in the UN Women-hosted Women Leaders' Forum at Rio+20.
- Ms Williams travelled to Cambodia (10-15 July) to participate in a US-Cambodia-hosted Lower Mekong Initiative Gender Policy Dialogue. Ms Williams was a moderator of a panel on Gender-Based Violence.

Question No. 112

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

The Ambassador's position has been described as her being 'responsible for high-level advocacy to promote Australian Government policies and activity regarding gender equality and the social, political and economic empowerment of women and girls, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.' What activities has Ms Williams undertaken to achieve this since she took up her post?

Answer

Ms Williams has engaged in high level international advocacy to promote Australian Government policies and activity regarding gender equality during her trips to the Pacific, and through her participation, in Australia and aboard, in multilateral and regional conferences (APEC, UNGA, CHOGM, the Commission on the Status of Women, and Rio+20) to promote the social, economic and political empowerment of women and girls.

Ms Williams has travelled to the Pacific on four occasions, visiting seven countries, meeting with senior level interlocutors to prosecute Australia's gender priorities, and conducting extensive media outreach. She has also travelled to Asia (Indonesia and Cambodia) to promote Australia's gender equality agenda and to participate in a US-Cambodia jointly hosted regional policy dialogue on women's empowerment. In Australia, she has met with representatives of international organisations, other governments and heads of civil society organisations to improve cooperation on gender programs.

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Question No. 113

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

In the Administrative Circular on the AWG it is outlined that 'staff should ensure the office of the Global Ambassador for Women and Girls is kept informed of, and where relevant consulted regarding, all departmental activity to promote gender equality internationally'. What advice and information have staff at the Office for Women provided to Ms Williams since she took up the position in September 2011?

Answer

As a matter of course, the Office for Women regularly provides briefings on domestic and international issues and developments to the Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

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Question No. 114

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

Part of Ms Williams' job is 'domestic consultation and liaison through bilateral, regional and multilateral advocacy'. With whom has Ms Williams consulted and liaised with since she took up the position?

Answer

In the months following her appointment on 13 September 2011, Ms Williams has consulted broadly and regularly across government and civil society in Australia and has liaised with bilateral, regional and multilateral contacts and organisations to promote gender equality.

It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide the details of everyone with whom Ms Williams has consulted and liaised since her appointment.

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Question No. 115

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

Ms Williams has an adviser, Felicity Volk. Is that adviser position a full-time position? What is Ms Volk's job description? What is Ms Volk's salary band?

Answer

Ms Williams' adviser is a 0.8FTE, EL2 officer. She manages the Office of the Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, provides high level policy advice, and develops and implements outreach programs in support of the work of the Ambassador.

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Question No. 116

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

I refer to QoN answer 170, where I asked for a schedule of meetings that Ms Williams has attended with the Office for Women. Could you please provide an updated schedule for Ms Williams.

Answer

Since her appointment in September 2011, Ms Williams has met regularly and frequently with the Office for Women (OfW) both through a formal schedule of quarterly meetings (involving OfW, AusAID and DFAT) and through meetings and teleconference consultations organised as required.

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Question No. 117

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Question

At the Estimates hearing in October 2011, Ms Carroll advised that regular meetings would be set up with Ms Williams' adviser. What is that schedule?

Answer

Ms Williams' adviser met with the Office for Women (OfW) on a monthly basis in the first six months of Ms Williams appointment as Global Ambassador for Women and Girls (September 2011 – February 2012). Since February, the schedule of monthly meetings has reverted to a quarterly schedule (Ms Williams' adviser attends the quarterly interagency meetings involving OfW, AusAID and DFAT). This formal meeting schedule is supplemented by regular teleconference consultations with OfW as required.

Question No. 118

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Why is summary information pertaining to the results of EFIC's Category A project risk assessment not disclosed on the EFIC website at the time of notification of approval?

Answer

EFIC publishes, on its website, the following summary information concerning transactions associated with Category A projects located outside of Australia:

- Project name and description
- Country and location
- Industry section
- Facility type
- Reasons for classification
- Project sponsor's environmental and social assessment, and
- Disclosure period (a minimum 30 days prior to making a decision).

EFIC's disclosure is based on international best practice and goes beyond international guidelines for Export Credit Agencies as outlined in the OECD Common Approaches. Due to EFIC's confidentiality obligations, internal project risk assessments are not published. To provide stakeholders with confidence in its internal review processes, EFIC has committed to engaging an independent environmental and social expert to audit the application by EFIC of its Policy and Procedure for the Environmental and Social Review of Transactions. The first audit is expected to take place before the end of 2012. Audit reports will be provided to the EFIC Board and will be made publicly available.

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Question No. 119

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator: Rhiannon

Question

How regularly and to what extent is EFIC-supported project compliance with Commonwealth environmental law audited?

Answer

Under EFIC's Policy and Procedure for Environmental and Social Review of Transactions (Policy), EFIC requires projects located in Australia to obtain and maintain all relevant Commonwealth and State Government environmental licences and approvals. Compliance with Commonwealth and State government requirements is a matter for those governments.

Question No. 120

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Page: Written

Senator Rhiannon

Question

How regularly and to what extent is EFIC-supported project compliance with EFIC standards and practices audited?

Answer

EFIC undertakes a review of all credit relationships at least annually. This includes an assessment of

- (i) the customer's business, its financial performance and overall operations, and
- (ii) risk factors as required under applicable Australian financial regulations including the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006 (Cth)*.

Throughout the term of a facility, EFIC monitors compliance with any reporting obligations under the facility. For environmental and social factors, EFIC undertakes a review of all Category A project transactions, at least quarterly. Category A projects are considered to have the potential for significant adverse environmental and/or social impacts.

EFIC's operations and the application of its internal policies, procedures and controls are subject to an annual audit program conducted by independent auditors. EFIC's financial accounts are audited annually by independent external auditors appointed by the Australian National Audit Office.

Question No. 121

Program: EFIC

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

How regularly and to what extent is EFIC-supported project compliance with Australian financial regulations audited?

Answer

Australian Government bodies such as AUSTRAC, ASIC and others are responsible for the regulation and monitoring of Australian companies' compliance with Australian financial regulations. Such regulatory and compliance monitoring activities fall outside EFIC's legislative mandate.

EFIC undertakes a review of all its credit relationships at least annually. This review comprises an assessment of

- (i) customers' businesses, their financial performance and overall operations, and
- (ii) risk factors as required under applicable Australian financial regulations including the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006 (Cth)* ("AML/CTF Act").

EFIC's operations and the application of its internal policies, procedures and controls, which reflect EFIC's obligations under applicable legislation such as the AML/CTF Act, are subject to an annual audit program conducted by independent auditors. EFIC's financial accounts are audited annually by independent external auditors appointed by the Australian National Audit Office.

Question No. 122

Program: DFAT

Topic: Kangaroo Trade

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

1. *To which countries or (states which legislate their own import rules) does Australia export kangaroo meat and other kangaroo products, and in what quantities of each of the products?*
2. *What export income has each of the products brought from each importer country or state?*
 - a) *How does this compare with the last 10 years?*
 - b) *Is this data complete, and if not, why not?*
3. *Which countries/ states are currently being lobbied by the Australian Government to import kangaroo products?*
 - a) *Which Ministers have raised the issue in talks with which foreign government representatives during the past five years; and*
 - b) *What are the current reasons for target countries refusing trade in kangaroo products?*
4. *Have you or your Department been involved in bringing to Australia overseas country representatives to encourage the import of kangaroo to their country?*
 - a) *Who were the parties involved?*
 - b) *When and where were the visits conducted in Australia?*
 - c) *How much public funding was spent on this?*
5. *How much money is the government spending on lobbying other countries to import kangaroo products?*

Answer

1. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet, which contains the complete dataset requested.
2. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet, which contains the complete dataset requested.

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3.

a)

Russia

Kangaroo exports were discussed by Ministers at the following meetings:

- . In December 2009, then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Tony Burke MP, met the Russian Minister for Agriculture, Dr Elena Skrynik, in the margins of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference.
- . In 2010, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Stephen Smith MP, met Russian Agriculture Minister Skrynik during his visit to Russia.
- . On 16 March 2011, during the Australia – Russia Agricultural Working Group (AWG) meeting, the Hon. Dr Craig Emerson, Minister of Trade, met the Russian Minister of Agriculture, Dr Elena Skrynnik.
- . On 5 July 2011, 2 August 2011 and 6 September 2011, Trade Minister Emerson wrote to Dr Elena Skrynnik, Russian Minister of Agriculture.
- . On 6 September 2011 and 24 November 2011, Trade Minister Emerson wrote to the Russian Minister Economic Development, Ms Elvira Nabiullina.
- . Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Trade Minister Emerson both separately discussed kangaroo meat with their Russian counterparts, President Dmitry Medvedev and Ms Elvira Nabiullina at the November 2011 APEC meeting.
- . In March 2012, during the visit to Russia by the Parliamentary Secretary For Trade, the Hon Justine Elliot MP, Russian kangaroo meat importers raised the issue of Australian kangaroo meat exports.

China

Kangaroo exports were discussed at the following meetings:

- . On 13 April 2009, then-Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Tony Burke MP, met the then-Minister for AQSIQ, Mr Wang Yong.
- . On 15 April 2009, then Minister Burke hosted an event in Shanghai to support access for kangaroo meat into China. Participants included representatives from Australia's kangaroo industry, Chinese government officials and potential Chinese importers, distributors and buyers.
- . Minister Ludwig met State Forestry Administration Minister, Mr Jia Zhibang, in Canberra on 20 October 2011.
- . Minister Ludwig met the Chinese Minister for AQSIQ, Mr Zhi Shuping on 9 December 2011.

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- Minister Emerson met Chinese Commerce Minister, Mr Chen Deming, in Canberra on 10 April 2012.

Philippines

Kangaroo exports were raised at the following meeting:

- The 2011 Philippine Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) which was co-hosted in Australia by then Foreign Minister Rudd and Minister Emerson.

Peru

DAFF is currently working to progress market access for kangaroo meat to Peru. Import conditions, a health certificate and the process for approval of Australian establishments have been agreed.

b.

The target countries have cited food safety and animal welfare considerations.

4.

China

Chinese officials visited Australia in October 2008 to review Australia's kangaroo meat production system. Chinese officials travelled to Australia in June 2009 for technical discussions on a range of market access issues, including market access for kangaroo meat. DAFF subsequently facilitated an audit of specific establishments by China in November-December 2010.

a) Who were the parties involved;

DAFF, DFAT, and government representatives from China.

b) When and where were the visits conducted in Australia?

In October 2008 and in December 2010, Chinese officials visited establishments in South Australia and Queensland.

In June 2009, technical discussions were held with Chinese officials in Canberra.

c) How much public funding was spent on this?

The cost of the 2008 and 2010 visits by Chinese officials were recovered from industry.

The cost of the 2009 visit for technical discussions was covered by China.

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Russia

On 17 March 2011, Minister Emerson co-hosted the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) with Russian Agriculture Minister, Dr Elena Skrynnik, in Sydney. An element of the ministers' discussion was market access issues facing the Australian kangaroo industry in Russia.

a) Who were the parties involved;

At JCTEC: DFAT, DAFF & Russia's Agriculture, Foreign Affairs and Economic Development Ministries.

b) When and where were the visits conducted in Australia?

In March 2011, the JCTEC meeting was held in Sydney.

c) How much public funding was spent on this?

The cost of visiting Australia for the 2011 JCTEC was covered by Russia.

Philippines

No Philippines representatives have been brought to Australia (by the Australian Government) to encourage the import of kangaroos. DAFF continues to work with Philippine authorities to obtain their agreement to audit Australia's kangaroo meat production system.

Peru

No representatives have been brought to Australia (by the Australian Government) from Peru.

5.

The Australian Government regularly raises kangaroo market access issues whenever we meet with relevant trading partners, at both Ministerial and officials level. It is not possible to split the cost of attending these meetings into separate costs for pursuing each market access issue.

DAFF, in consultation with the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia, is developing a DVD on the Australian kangaroo meat processing system to facilitate market access discussions. The cost to the Australian Government of producing the DVD is approximately \$100,000. It will initially be translated into Russian and Chinese.

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Question No. 123

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) How many ongoing staff recruited for this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?*
- (B) many non on-going positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?*
- (C) This financial year to date how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?*

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

- (A) In the 2011-12 Financial Year, EFIC recruited 15 staff to fill 12 existing and 3 new positions.
- (B) 3 non on-going positions.
- (C) Nil.

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Question No. 124

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Provide details of what staffing changes have occurred in each department/agency from the 2012-13 Budget. Provide a list of additional and/or redundant positions, the classification and the program those positions are part of or have been taken from.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 125

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please list the SES positions have you in your department/agency in the years this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such APS employment classifications are not applicable for EFIC staff.

All SES-equivalent positions are permanent staff as determined by EFIC management.

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Question No. 126

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing - Graduates

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please details including costs and what the training is.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 127

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing – Graduate Recruiting

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 128

Program: EFIC

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
- (B) Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
- (C) Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- (D) Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- (E) Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
- (F) Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
- (G) What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer

EFIC's undertakes general advertising activities to generate awareness of EFIC's products and services for Australian exporters. EFIC has not been involved in the advertisement of broader Government messages to the public.

- (A) Total advertising cost for FY2011-12 was \$258,381 as at 30 June 2012.

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- (B) No campaign advertising was undertaken. In 2011-2012 EFIC ran ongoing print and on-line advertising designed to increase awareness of EFIC's services to help exporters overcome financial barriers. Creative input for all advertising was provided by the advertising agency, Lavender. EFIC works with the Government appointed media buying agency, Universal McCann, when booking advertising.
- (C) No.
- (D) No.
- (E) Not applicable.
- (F) EFIC has 2 full time equivalent staff who undertake ongoing in-house public relations and communications activities for EFIC.
- (G) EFIC will continue ongoing non-campaign advertising and in-house communications activities which foster awareness of EFIC's products and services in the export industry.

Question No. 129

Program: EFIC

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- (B) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- (C) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location purpose and cost of all events.
- (D) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- (E) What hospitality spend is the Department agency planning on spending? Detail date, location purpose and cost of all events.
- (F) What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency planning on spending? Detail date location, purpose and cost of all events.
- (G) Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer

- (A & C) EFIC's total entertainment and hospitality spend for FY2011-12 as at 30 June 2012 was \$132,432.

EFIC's reporting systems do not capture hospitality and entertainment expenditure in such a way that would readily enable the breakdown of hospitality and entertainment expenditure by date, location, purpose and cost of each event. To manually collect this information would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified.

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This total expenditure captures hospitality and entertainment for EFIC's Australian clients, potential clients, other corporations, companies, institutions, development banks and agencies external to the Corporation, in addition to event hosting expenses associated with client and staff functions. This spending fulfils an important relationship-building role supporting EFIC's mandate to assist Australian companies overcome financial barriers to export.

EFIC is a self-funded corporation with well-established policies on the proper management of hospitality and entertainment expenses. All staff are required to justify the purpose of, and maintain written records for each item of hospitality or entertainment expenditure. All expenditure and supporting documentation is reviewed and must be approved by EFIC's cost centre managers (Head of Department level) to ensure the criteria for expenditure has been met; Department heads' expenditure must in turn receive Executive approval.

(B & D) Not applicable.

(E,F & G) EFIC's hospitality and entertainment spending for FY12-13 is expected to be in line with entertainment and hospitality budget for FY11-12.

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Question No. 130

Program: EFIC

Topic: Board Appointments

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.

What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?

Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.

Answer

This question has been answered in Question 80.

Question No. 131

Program: EFIC

Topic: Freedom of Information (FOI)

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?*
- (B) *What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?*
- (C) *How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?*
- (D) *How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?*

Answer

- (A) EFIC has not received (or requested) any updated general advice on how to respond to FOI requests. EFIC generally only requests advice in relation to specific FOI requests.
- (B) For the 2011-2012 financial year, EFIC's non-staff costs attributable to FOI requests were approximately \$80,000.00.
- (C) For the 2011-2012 financial year, EFIC received one FOI request for access. Access was granted in part.

The applicant was notified of EFIC's decision after the statutory time period of 30 days. However, the statutory time period to notify the applicant of EFIC's decision was extended by the Office of Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) under section 15AC of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. EFIC responded within the extended time period granted by the OAIC.

There are no outstanding requests.
- (D) Nil.

Question No. 132

Program: EFIC

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?

How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location.

How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.

How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.

What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 133

Program: EFIC

Topic: Reviews

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- (A) How many Reviews are being undertaken?*
- (B) What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded*
- (C) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?*
- (D) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?*
- (E) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?*
- (F) What reviews are planned?*
- (G) When will each of these reviews be concluded?*

Answer

EFIC regularly reviews its internal policies, procedures and practices to ensure best practice is upheld in EFIC's activities.

EFIC's operations and the application of its internal policies, procedures and controls are subject to an annual internal audit program conducted by independent auditors. EFIC's financial accounts are audited annually by independent external auditors appointed by the Australian National Audit Office.

Question No. 134

Program: EFIC

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A)

- i. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date?*
- ii. Identify the name of the consultant,*
- iii. the subject matter of the consultancy,*
- iv. the duration cost of the arrangement,*
- v. and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc.)*
- vi. Also include total value for all consultancies.*

B)

- i. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year?*
- ii. Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not?*
- iii. In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.*

Answer

- A) Under the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, EFIC as a relevant CAC Act body, is required to report details of Australian procurement contracts awarded on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system where the total contract value is above \$400,000 or above \$9 million for construction contracts. To provide details of consultancy contracts below this reporting threshold would entail significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified.
- B) In terms of reporting requirements for CAC Act bodies under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, EFIC has no further consultancies planned for this calendar year.

Question No. 135

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media Monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts, and etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?

- i. Which agency or agencies provided these services*
- ii. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2011-12?*
- iii. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?*

(B) What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?

- i. Which agency or agencies provided these services?*
- ii. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2011-12?*
- iii. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?*

Answer

(A) Not applicable.

(B)

- i. EFIC have a contract with Dow Jones Factiva for a range services including media monitoring and company search functions.
- ii. Estimated budget for the media monitoring component of EFIC's contract with Dow Jones Factiva was \$10, 000 for 2011-12.
- iii. As at 30 June 2012, the media monitoring component of EFIC's contract with Dow Jones Factiva cost approximately \$9,500.

Question No. 136

Program: EFIC

Topic: Social Media

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Have there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued. If no, please explain why not.

Answer

EFIC is not an Australian Public Service body.

In 2011-12 EFIC developed an internal Social Media Policy (Policy) and Social Media Guidelines (Guidelines) to provide a framework for official use, (i.e. on behalf of EFIC not the broader Australian Government) professional use and personal use of social media and social networking sites by EFIC staff. The new Policy and Procedure complements existing guidance provided to staff through EFIC's staff Code of Conduct and Corporate Information Security Policy which govern, among other things, staff conduct and the appropriate use of internet and IT resources.

EFICs internal policy documents are not tabled.

Question No. 137

Program: EFIC

Topic: Contractors

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date:

- (A) Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (B) Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (C) Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (D) Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (E) Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (F) Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (G) Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (H) Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).*
- (I) Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.*

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(J) What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

Answer

(A-I) EFIC has not employed the contractors identified in parts A) to I) in the 2011-12 financial year.

(J) In the 2011-12 financial year, EFIC employed a number of contractors to undertake building and refurbishment works to EFIC's Export House office in Sydney.

Under the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, EFIC as a relevant CAC Act body, is required to report details of Australian procurement contracts awarded on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system where the total contract value is above \$400,000 or above \$9 million for construction contracts.

To provide details of consultancy contracts below this reporting threshold would entail significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified.

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Question No. 138

Program: EFIC

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.

Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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Question No. 139

Program: EFIC

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date?

Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- i. *How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost?*
- ii. *How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?*
- iii. *What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?*

Answer

Nil.

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Question No. 141

Program: EFIC

Topic: Stationery Requirements

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A) *How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers / Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes with compliments slips) this financial year to date?*
- B) *What is the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?*
- C) *What was the department/agency's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?*

Answer

(A) Not applicable.

(B) As at 30 June 2012 stationery costs for FY11-12 (including paper, EFIC letter head paper and envelopes and other miscellaneous stationery) totalled \$18,282.

(C)

| Year | Total |
|---------|----------|
| FY09-10 | \$20,275 |
| FY10-11 | \$19,383 |

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Question No. 142

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates?

- i. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.*
- ii. What is the cost for this financial year to date?*

(B) Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?

- i. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.*
- ii. What is the cost for this financial year to date?*

(C) Has there been any change to you magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?

- i. If yes please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.*
- ii. What is the cost for this financial year to date?*

Answer

(A-C) EFIC's media subscriptions have not changed substantially since February 2012. Existing subscriptions have been renewed.

EFIC's pay TV, newspaper and magazine subscription expenses for FY11-12 are as follows:

| Media Subscription | Total cost FY2011-12 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Pay TV | \$5,638 |
| Newspaper subscriptions | \$16,717 |
| Magazine subscriptions | \$23,894 |

Question No. 143

Program: EFIC

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).*
- (B) *For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).*
- (C) *Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.*
- (D) *Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.*
- (E) *When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.*

Answer

- (A) Not applicable.
- (B) EFIC's systems do not record travel data in a way that would readily allow total expenditure to be broken down into the level of detail sought. To attempt to extract this data manually would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified. EFIC records total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.

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- (C) EFIC is not subject to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, and is not a participating CAC Act body to the Whole of Australian Government travel arrangements (WoAG). However, the guidelines on domestic and international travel arrangements including the 'best fare of the day' and 'lowest logical airfare' policy are embedded in EFIC's own Corporate Travel Policy and travel arrangements, commensurate with the value for money objectives within EFIC's Procurement Policy.
- (D) Yes. EFIC provides Qantas Club memberships to employees who frequently fly overseas or interstate for business purposes, so that they may conduct that business effectively. Memberships are provided on a needs basis and require executive approval. EFIC currently incurs costs for 8 Qantas Club scheme memberships at a total cost of \$2,080 per annum.
- (E) EFIC is not an APS body and as such APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff. Support or administrative staff such as Executive Assistants do not accompany members of EFIC's Executive or other SES level equivalent staff when travelling.

Question No. 144

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Legal Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- (B) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- (C) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- (D) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

Please note:

- All costs are as at 30 June 2012.
 - Gross costs are provided noting some of EFIC's legal spend for transactions is recoverable from EFIC's clients.
 - Costs are inclusive of legal spend associated with EFIC's Commercial Account and the National Interest Account which EFIC administers on behalf of Government.
 - Approximate breakdowns have been provided, a list of each legal service and individual cost cannot be provided as this would constitute a significant diversion of EFIC resources.
- (A) EFIC has an in-house legal department of 7 full-time and 2 part-time staff which provide legal services across EFIC's business. Internal legal services are not recorded in such a way that would readily enable a full list of services and costs to be provided. In these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified.

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- (B) For the 2011-2012 financial year, EFIC's gross spend for legal services (inclusive of payable disbursements such as barristers' invoices) from the Australian Government Solicitor was approximately \$102,500.

The services the Australian Government Solicitor provided and the approximate costs for each service expressed as a percentage of the gross spend are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| i. Litigation - | approx. 29% |
| ii. Advisory - | approx. 40% |
| iii. Secondment - | approx. 32% |

- (C) For the 2011-2012 financial year, EFIC's gross spend for legal services (including any payable disbursements) from private firms is approximately \$730,000. Approximately 48% of this gross spend is recoverable from EFIC's clients. These legal costs are generally incurred in connection with transactions pursuant to which EFIC provides financial or insurance products and services to its clients. The balance of this gross spend relates to non recoverable legal costs for legal services obtained in connection with general corporate matters such as corporate governance.

- (D) Nil.

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Question No. 145

Program: EFIC

Topic: Education Expenses

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *What are the department/agency's guidelines on study? Please provide details.*
- (B) *For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification.) Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.*

Answer

(A) Relevant study by staff to ensure EFIC's occupational and professional needs are met is encouraged and supported. EFIC provides study assistance in the form of paid study and/or examination leave and financial assistance by reimbursing up to 50% of approved course fees and 50% of approved course materials upon successful completion. All Employees (excluding temporary or staff on contracts of less than 6 months duration) are eligible to apply for study assistance. Applications for assistance must be approved by Department Heads or an EFIC Executive. The course must lead to a recognised qualification or other benefit as determined by EFIC management.

(B) EFIC's total education related expenses for FY 2011-12 was \$294, 099

A breakdown of individual courses would constitute a significant diversion of EFIC resources. The following summary information has been provided:

| Type | Courses | Benefit | Cost |
|--|--|--|-----------|
| Technical and managerial skills training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial modelling - Industry specific analysis, - Presentation skills - OHS up-skilling | Effective business administration and management with appropriately skilled staff. Satisfaction of | \$201,803 |

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| | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project management - Compliance training - Legal update training - Loan management - Specific professional development training | legal compliance requirements. | |
| Assistance for external tertiary qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degree and diploma courses | Appropriately qualified staff. | \$9, 642 |
| Seminar and conferences (both industry wide and skill specific) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market sector conferences - Professional conferences as required by professional bodies e.g. legal - International conferences with other Export Credit Agencies - International and local conferences with required financial institutions. | Development and retention of relevant skills and knowledge to support EFIC's business. | \$82, 654 |
| Total Education Expenditure | | | 294,099 |

Question No. 146

Program: EFIC

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:*
- i. Total spending on these services*
 - ii. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification*
 - iii. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
 - iv. The names of all service providers engaged*
- (B) *For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide;*
- i. The name and nature of the service purchased*
 - ii. Whether the service is one on one or group based and their employment classification*
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
 - iv. The total amount spent on the service*
 - v. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)*
- (C) *Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:*
- i. The location used*
 - ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
 - iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location*

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Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such does APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

(A)

- i. \$75,195
- ii. 9 staff in total
- iii. 9 staff in total
No study leave was granted.
- iv. Aspirall
Stephenson & Mansell Group
Women in Banking and Finance

(B)

| Provider (i) | Service (i) provided | Structure (ii) | Hours (iii) | Total cost (iv.) | Description of fees (v.) |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| Aspirall | Leadership & professional development training | Mixed – one-on-one and group sessions. | Approximately 40 hours. (6 SES equivalent staff) | \$41,710 | Fixed, complete package fee. |
| Stephenson & Mansell Group | Leadership & professional development training | One-on-one. | Approximately 60 hours (1 SES equivalent staff) | \$32,010 | Fixed, complete package fee. |
| Women in Banking and Finance | Professional development mentoring | Mixed – one-on-one and group based. | No fixed training hours. (Participants schedule time with the mentor as needed over the course duration.) | \$1,475 | Fixed, complete package fee. |

(C)

- i. One external room was used for training provided by Aspirall. (Other training occurred at EFIC offices, or service providers' premises with no cost.)
- ii. Aspirall training – 6 staff (one-on-one basis)
- iii. A breakdown of individual hours for each employee is unavailable.
- iv. Cost for use of external room was \$2,400.

Question No. 147

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

- i. Total spending on these services*
- ii. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification*
- iii. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- iv. The names of all service providers engaged*

(B) For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- i. The name and nature of the service purchased*
- ii. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based*
- iii. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- iv. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- v. The total amount spent on the service*
- vi. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)*

(C) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises please provide:

- i. The location used*
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion*
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location*

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Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such, APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

(A)

- i. \$24,115.
- ii. 8 staff
- iii. 8 staff. No study leave was granted for these training purposes.
- iv. Mediaways
Templeman Consulting

(B)

| Provider | Service (i) | Structure (ii) | No. of employees (iii) | Total hours (iv) | Total spend (v) | Description of fees (vi) |
|----------------------|---|----------------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| Mediaways | Media messaging & skills training | One-on-one | 2 full-time executive staff | Approx. 15 hours across both employees | \$7,505 | Mixed – combination of hourly rate and fixed half day fees. |
| Templeman Consulting | On-camera presentation skills coaching. | One-on-one | 6 full-time staff (2 executive and 4 non-executive staff) | Executive: 1-3 hours per employee Non-executive: 1 hour per employee | \$7,810 | Fixed package fee. |
| Total Spend | | | | | \$15,315 | |

(C) N/A – no location other than the EFIC's own premises were used.

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Question No. 148

Program: EFIC

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme?

(B) For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.

Answer

(A) 1 staff member.

(B) 1 staff member.

Question No. 149

Program: EFIC

Topic: Training for Portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.

For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.

For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

Question No. 150

Program: EFIC

Topic: Corporate Cars

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Please update if there has been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

- (A) How many cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio?*
- (B) Where is the car/s located?*
- (C) What is the car/s used for?*
- (D) What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?*
- (E) How far did each car travel this financial year to date?*

Answer

- (A) 12
- (B) Sydney
- (C) Part of personal employment package.
- (D) Fully costed to personal employment package.
- (E) As at end 2011-12 FBT year (1 April – 31 March 2012)
 - Car 1 – 14,186 kms
 - Car 2 – 2,703 kms
 - Car 3 – 12,067 kms
 - Car 4 – 8,807 kms
 - Car 5 – 25,071 kms
 - Car 6 – 28,642 kms
 - Car 7 – 2,222 kms
 - Car 8 – 27,198 kms
 - Car 9 – 29,500 kms
 - Car 10 – 12,055 kms
 - Car 11 – 25,095 kms
 - Car 12 – 12,422 kms

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Question No. 151

Program: EFIC

Topic: Taxi Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

*How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date?
Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.*

What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer

EFIC's systems do not readily enable the separation of this information from other total travel expenses. To manually breakdown records to supply the information required would constitute a significant diversion of resources and the additional work cannot be justified.

EFIC records its total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.

Question No. 152

Program: EFIC

Topic: Credit Cards

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card

(B) Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

- i. What action is undertaken if there corporate credit card is misused?*
- ii. How is corporate credit card use monitored?*
- iii. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?*
- iv. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.*
- v. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?*

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and therefore APS employment classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

(A) Total of 59 EFIC staff have a corporate credit card.

(B) EFIC has an established corporate credit card policy with guidelines for use and monitoring of credit card expenditure. This policy and procedures has not changed since February 2012. There have been no instances of credit card misuse in this time.

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Question No. 153

Program: EFIC

Topic: Printing of Documents

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Does the department / agency print any hard copies of reports, statements or papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.

Answer

Yes. Details for EFIC reports and papers printed in FY2011-12 are detailed in the table below. Note that this does not include printing of EFIC marketing and promotional materials such as product brochures.

| Document | Quantity | Delivery destination | Cost |
|---|-----------------|--|---------------------------|
| EFIC 2011 Annual Report | 500 | EFIC Sydney office | \$7,554.00 (excl. GST) |
| EFIC 2011 Annual Report (reprint) | 500 | EFIC Sydney office & Parliament House Canberra | \$7,062.00 (excl. GST) |
| EFIC Response to the Draft Report for the Productivity Commission's Review of Australia's Export Credit Arrangements. | 100 | EFIC Sydney office | \$1,585.50 (excl. GST) |
| Total | | | \$16201.5 (excl. GST) |

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Question No. 154

Program: EFIC

Topic: Electronic Equipment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- (A) *For departments and agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and /or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs.*
- (B) *For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?*
- (C) *Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list) provided to department/agency staff? If yes, provide details of:*
- a. what is provided,*
 - b. the purchase cost,*
 - c. the ongoing cost*
 - d. and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.*
- (D) *Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):*
- a. Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.*

Answer

(A) Not applicable.

(B) Not applicable.

(C) Yes.

- a-b. EFIC provides the following electronic equipment to staff for both temporary and/or ongoing use:

| Equipment | Purchase cost |
|--------------|---------------|
| Home desktop | \$10,000 |
| Home printer | \$2,000 |
| iPad | \$6,300 |

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| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Smart phone | \$47,300 |
| Wireless cards | \$1,300 |
| Laptops | \$45,500 |
| Thumb drives | \$500 |
| Satellite phone | \$1,300 |
| Total | \$115,000 |

- c. Total ongoing cost for this equipment is \$4,000 (covering repair, consumables and monthly minimum phone and data usage).
- d. All EFIC's staff are entitled to the ongoing use of IT equipment for work purposes pending approval from EFIC's executive. All EFIC's staff are also entitled to borrow IT equipment on loan for short periods of time (usually less than two weeks) for work purposes. EFIC is not an APS body, as such APS employment classifications do not apply to EFIC staff: The number of staff (both executive and non-executive staff) with ongoing use of EFIC IT equipment are detailed below.

| Equipment | Staff with ongoing use |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Home desktop | 3 |
| Home printer | 6 |
| iPad | 7 |
| Smart Phone | 57 |
| Wireless card | 2 |
| Laptops | 6 |

- a. Not applicable.

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Question No. 155

Program: EFIC

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

- A. Provide an update of the department /agency electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.*
- B. What were the department/agency costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?*
- C. What were the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?*

Answer

- A. EFIC's current electricity purchasing agreement commenced on 1 October 2011 for a 2 year term.
- B. 2009-10: \$60,665; 2010-11: \$60,717.
- C. \$81,693 as at 30 June 2012.

Question No. 156

Program: EFIC

Topic: Information on the Australian Greens and Independents

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

(A) Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:

- i. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
- ii. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each work produced.
- iii. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were and why it could not be undertaken.
- iv. How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

(B) Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:

- i. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
- ii. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details, including who the work/information was for and a copy of each work produced.
- iii. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were, who they were from, who they were for and why it could not be undertaken.
- iv. How long is spent undertaken work and/or information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

Answer

Nil.

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Question No. 157

Program: EFIC

Topic: Shredders

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer

EFIC purchased two shredders in the last 12 months. Each shredder cost \$3,075.00 (incl. GST) at a total cost of \$6,150.00.

Shredders were purchased to assist EFIC in meeting its information security obligations.