**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR ABETZ**

**Question 1**

Written question

**Senator Abetz asked:**

Minister Rudd was critical of a report criticising Australia's performance in the area of education in the foreign aid budget. I am referring to the *Sydney Morning Herald* article entitled "Rudd hits back at poor report card" by Kirsty Needham 22 Sept 2010. The report was part of the 1 Goal Education for All Education campaign.

a. Can you tell me how much AusAID has contributed to this campaign?

b. In light of Foreign Minister Rudd's substantial criticism of this sloppy report do you think that this was money well spent?

**Answer**

a. AusAID provided a one-off grant of $150,000 to 1 GOAL's global organisers, the Global Campaign for Education, and $270,000 to ActionAid Australia to roll out 1 GOAL in Australia. The program finishes this year.

b. The Global Campaign for Education donor report card referred to in the question was not supported with Australian Government funding.

1 GOAL used the 2010 World Cup in South Africa to raise awareness of the Education For All goals through mass media, events and celebrity ambassadors including prominent international football players.

The campaign increased community awareness of the importance of education and achieving the Education For All goals. In September 2010, during the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit, the Global Campaign for Education presented UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, with 18 million declarations of support for Education For All from 1 GOAL supporters around the world.

**Question 2**

Written question

**Senator Abetz asked:**

The Global Poverty Project is out there arguing for more foreign aid money and thus a bigger budget for AusAID. It wants Australia to increase its aid levels to 0.7% of Gross National Income.

1. How much AusAID money is the Global Poverty Project receiving?
2. What part of the aid budget is this coming out of?
3. Are there any other NGOs being funded by AusAID who are also arguing for more taxpayer monies to be spent on foreign aid?
4. What is AusAID's attitude to funding NGOs who campaign for a bigger AusAID budget?

**Answer**

a. AusAID’s financial support to the Global Poverty Project totalled $350,000 (plus GST) paid in tranches between December 2008 and January 2010.

The funding supported the development of a presentation on global poverty and a six week launch tour, which saw 46 presentations delivered to more than 7000 attendees in major cities and towns across Australia. The funding agreement ended on 30 June 2010.

b. The funding for the Global Poverty Project came out of the Public Affairs Program.

c. Yes, there are NGOs funded by AusAID who are members of the Make Poverty History coalition, an international alliance that advocates for all developed countries to lift aid levels to the UN standard of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI). AusAID provides funding to more than 40 Australian NGOs who provide international development assistance. World Vision, Oxfam, ChildFund, Caritas and the Fred Hollows Foundation are some of the AusAID-funded NGOs who are members of the Make Poverty History coalition.

d. AusAID funding cannot be used for political campaigning. This is a condition of funding agreements with NGOs. The Government cannot direct what NGOs do with their own funding. Many NGOs undertake advocacy work and participate in political campaigns, both domestic and international, as part of their core business.

**Question 3**

Written question

**Senator Abetz asked:**

Do you know what the Boycott Divestments and Sanctions Campaign is? Here is the link: http://bdsmovement.net/ (IF NO)—Basically its a global campaign of activists, unions, academics, NGOs and religious groups who are calling for a boycott, sanctions and divestment of Israel.

1. Can you tell me whether the Australian taxpayer or AusAID is funding any groups in this campaign against the state of Israel?
2. Have you ever heard of a Palestinian NGO called the Ma'an Development Center?

http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/574. This NGO would appear to be involved in the campaign. I am referring to its booklets entitled "Boycott, Divestments and

Sanctions: Lesson learned in effective solidarity."

1. Can you tell me how much money the Australian Government and AusAID has given to this NGO, as evidenced by its annual report: http://www.maanctr.org/Donorsandpartners.php
2. Will AusAID find out how many other Palestinian and AusAID-accredited NGOs

are involved in this campaign the Australian taxpayer is funding?

1. Can you also find out what APHEDA—Union Aid Abroad's role is in this campaign? They seem to be quite active. They are conducting Middle East "study trips" which trade union leaders seem quite energised to attack Israel afterwards.
2. Can you tell me whether AusAID is subsidising these trips in any way?
3. Can you tell me how much AusAID money APHEDA is receiving?
4. What proportion of its budget?
5. Can you tell me how this compares to the two previous years?

**Answer**

1. No AusAID or other Australian Official Development Assistance funds are provided to any groups for the Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.
2. AusAID is aware of the Ma’an Development Centre.
3. AusAID does not directly fund the Ma’an Development Centre. However, under the Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (AMENCA), AusAID provides funding to Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA to undertake development activities in Gaza and the West Bank. Ma’an Development Centre works in partnership with Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA to undertake these activities.

Ma’an Development Centre received approximately $1,219,320 from Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA in the 12 months to 30 April 2010 to implement development activities under the AMENCA program focusing on rural development through land rehabilitation, agricultural training, small business development and village women’s enterprises.

1. The Australian NGOs funded by AusAID to undertake work in the Palestinian Territories have confirmed that no AusAID funds are being used to support the BDS campaign, nor are they involved in the campaign.
2. AusAID funds Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA for specific development activities in the Palestinian Territories. AusAID does not provide any funding for the study trips. Questions about activities not funded by AusAID should be directed to Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA.
3. No AusAID subsidies are provided for these trips.
4. It is estimated that Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA will receive $2,293,000 from AusAID in 2010-11 for development activities in Gaza and the West Bank, Solomon Islands and Vietnam.
5. Based on information provided by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA on its total budget, the proportion of AusAID funding for the overall program this financial year is estimated at 40 per cent
6. In 2009-10 AusAID provided $2,586,322.06 to Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, which (based on information provided to AusAID by the NGO) was approximately 42 per cent of the total budget.

In 2008-09 AusAID provided $2,466,506, which was approximately 44 per cent of the total budget.

**Question 4**

Written question

**Senator Abetz asked:**

I have one question about the Community Call to Action program. This was initially a one year pilot program? Is AusAID planning to continue with this program?

**Answer**

The Minister has decided not to continue the Community Call to Action Program on conclusion of its pilot phase at the end of 2010.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR MARK BISHOP**

**Question 5**

Written question

**Senator Bishop asked:**

The Government announced its policy, Financial Services for the Poor, in March 2010. This policy indicated that the value of assistance for microfinance would double to $18-$20 million by 2012-13. The Budget papers for 2010-11 indicated that the level of support for microfinance reached $18 million in 2009-10. Would AusAID be able to;

1. Confirm the actual level of funding for microfinance in 2009-10?
2. Indicate if the Government is planning to further increase the estimated support for microfinance in 2012-13, if the $18-20 million figure has already been achieved?

**Answer**

1. The actual level of funding for microfinance in 2009-10 was $16.46 million.
2. The commitment announced in Financial Services for the Poor to double spending on financial services for poor people is expected to be achieved in 2010-11, with expected total funding this financial year of $21.45 million. The precise level of funding for microfinance activities in future years will be subject to annual budget considerations, but is currently projected to remain at around this level.

**Question 6**

Written question

**Senator Bishop asked:**

The Government announced in September 2010 that Australia would contribute an additional $750 million for education in the five years to 2014-15. Can AusAID advise on the following;

1. The approximate amount in each of the next five years of additional funding for education?
2. The approximate proportion of the additional funding, which will be allocated to basic education?

**Answer**

**a. In September 2010 during the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit, the Minister for Foreign Affairs said that Australia is expected to provide around $5 billion for development assistance in education over the next five years to 2014-15. This figure is based on ODA projections, current spending and GNI forecast. Annual ODA projections will be determined each year as part of the Budget process. Annual ODA projections are contained in Budget Statements** <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/budget10/defaul.cfm>**.**

b. Education is a flagship sector of Australia’s development assistance program comprising almost 20 per cent of total ODA in 2010-11.Basic education, particularly giving more children the chance to go to school and improving the quality of the education they receive, will remain the main focus of Australia’s education support. Currently, two-thirds of assistance is spent on strengthening education systems within countries with a one-third supporting developing countries through Australian tertiary qualifications and training. As education spending increases substantially, so too will support for basic education. Exact proportions of Australia’s education support will be guided by the needs and priorities of our partner countries and AusAID’s strategy development process. The recently announced independent aid effectiveness review will also provide recommendations on the appropriate sectoral focus of the aid program.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR BIRMINGHAM**

**Question 7**

**Written question**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Does AusAID fund sub-national technical support programs or projects in Papua New Guinea or any other developing countries in the area of maternal health? Are any of these programs or projects targeting remote and difficult to reach areas? Please detail examples, including what form of assistance is provided and, if available, what positive health outcomes have been achieved.

**Answer**

Yes. AusAID funds maternal health technical support programs in direct cooperation with sub-national governments in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. Much of this support is delivered in remote and difficult to reach locations.

In Indonesia, AusAID funds the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neo-Natal Health (AIPMNH). AIPMNH operates in East Nusa Tenggara, one of Indonesia’s poorest and most remote provinces. The Partnership provides a mix of technical assistance and budget support to East Nusa Tenggara’s provincial and district governments.

AIPMNH aims to increase the number of deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants, increase the number of women using health facilities and midwives for birthing, reduce malaria and anaemia among mothers and fund district health offices to improve service delivery. So far, more than 1,000 health workers and managers have been trained. At a health clinic in Narang, for example, births assisted by health workers increased from about 40 per cent in 2009 to 69 per cent in 2010. Birthing facilities have been built and equipped in 23 public health clinics and a district hospital, while two clinical training centres have been renovated. At least 36,000 pregnant women and 37,000 babies are expected to benefit from this program.

In addition to these achievements, AusAID’s investments in national level maternal health programs have contributed to significant increases in the number of women who have their births attended by trained health personnel. In Cambodia, where Australia has helped to train 200 new midwives in 2009, the increase has been from 58 per cent in 2008 to 63 per cent in 2009. In East Timor, supervised births have increased from 18 per cent in 2003 to 30 per cent in 2009 and in Nepal from 19 per cent in 2006 to 33 per cent in 2009. In the Bangladeshi district of Nilphamari, AusAID funding has achieved a decrease in the maternal death rate from 257 per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 171 per 100,000 live births in 2009. In Ethiopia, fewer women are suffering from childbirth complications such as fistula. With AusAID funding, over two thousand obstetric fistula patients were treated in 2009 and nearly six thousand women were trained in fistula prevention.

As advised in the answer to Question 17, AusAID provides maternal health support to sub national levels in PNG, including targeted assistance for Bougainville and communities along the Kokoda Track.

* In Bougainville training for rural health workers to improve antenatal and postnatal checks and manage obstetric emergencies has seen a 33 per cent increase in supervised delivers across Bougainville from 3,175 in 2005 to 4,210 births in 2009. This has led to an estimated reduction in maternal deaths from 235 per 100,000 in 2005 to 123 per 100,000 in 2009.
* Activities along the Kokoda Track which has included training of health workers, upgrading of health facilities, and provision of essential medical supplies has seen a 43 per cent increase in supervised deliveries in the communities of the Kokoda Track region (including villages of Sogeri, Efogi) and a 24 per cent increase from 2007 to 2009 in the number of couples accessing family planning.

At *Attachment B* is further information on maternal health in PNG.

**Question 8**

**Written question**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Please outline the funding commitment to maternal health in Papua New Guinea. Please provide examples of positive outcomes resulting from funded maternal health programs or projects.

**Answer**

Maternal health is a key component of AusAID’s support to PNG’s health sector. In 2009-10, Australia provided $45 million for the health sector in PNG. This support focussed on strengthening the overall health system with the PNG Government and other donors. All our support to the PNG health sector contributes to building an effective health system, which is essential for women to have a safe pregnancy and childbirth.

Some positive outcomes resulting from Australian funded programs include:

* AusAID has funded the improvement of the four existing midwifery schools in PNG. This involved
  + designing and developing a new curriculum which addresses the three most common and easily treatable causes of maternal deaths
  + funding academic and technical support to the schools
  + funding the provision of equipment and academic materials to the schools.

The first cohort of 45 students who have studied the improved curriculum will graduate in February 2011. The first year of support to the midwifery schools has focused on improving the quality of the course materials and teaching. In the future Australia’s support will focus on increasing the number of students. This is crucial to improving the percentage of supervised births and decreasing the number of maternal deaths in PNG.

* AusAID’s support for maternal health services at the sub-national level has led to a drop in maternal deaths in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville from 235 per 100,000 in 2005 to 123 per 100,000 in 2009
* Forty three per cent increase in supervised deliveries in the communities of the Kokoda Track region (including villages of Sogeri, Efogi and Kodoka).

In 2011 AusAID will provide further, targeted support to the PNG National Department of Health to deliver tangible results in reducing maternal deaths and improving maternal health. This includes support for increased access to family planning, the lack of which is currently a major factor in maternal death in PNG. In 2011 our program will continue to fund the upgrade of the four existing and one additional midwifery schools to increase the numbers of skilled birth attendants in PNG. We will also support improved supervision of existing health facilities and medical workers including the immediate provision of obstetricians in the Highlands of PNG where there is currently no experienced specialist. We are also supporting the National Department of Health to roll out a comprehensive maternal mortality audit so that we have improved and more reliable records. Through this we are working with PNG on a framework to monitor and report on how our support will have resulted in a decline in maternal death.

At *Attachment B* is further information on maternal health in PNG.

**Question 9**

**Written question**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Are there sub-national technical support programs or projects offered in the area of maternal health in Papua New Guinea?

**Answer**

Yes. AusAID supports the Government of PNG to improve on the ground health service delivery at the sub-national level through funding

* the operation of rural health facilities,
* integrated health patrols
* district drug distribution.

These are all essential for women to enjoy safe pregnancy and childbirth. In 2011 AusAID will provide further, targeted support to the PNG National Department of Health to deliver tangible results in reducing maternal deaths and improving maternal health. This includes support for increased access to family planning, the lack of which is currently a major factor in maternal death in PNG. In 2011 our program will continue to upgrade the four existing and one additional midwifery schools to increase the numbers of skilled birth attendants in PNG. We will also support improved supervision of existing health facilities and medical workers including the immediate provision of obstetricians in the Highlands of PNG where there is currently no experienced specialist. We are also supporting the National Department of Health to roll out a comprehensive maternal mortality audit so that we have improved and more reliable records. Through this we are working with PNG on a framework to monitor and report on how our support will have resulted in a decline in maternal death.

Specific examples of the current maternal health support AusAID has provided to sub national levels include targeted assistance for Bougainville and communities along the Kokoda Track.

* In Bougainville training for rural health workers to improve antenatal and postnatal checks and manage obstetric emergencies has seen a 33 per cent increase in supervised delivers across Bougainville from 3,175 in 2005 to 4,210 births in 2009. This has led to an estimated reduction in maternal deaths from 235 per 100,000 in 2005 to 123 per 100,000 in 2009.
* Activities along the Kokoda Track which has included training of health workers, upgrading of health facilities, and provision of essential medical supplies has seen a 43 per cent increase in supervised deliveries in the communities of the Kokoda Track region (including villages of Sogeri, Efogi) and a 24 per cent increase from 2007 to 2009 in the number of couples accessing family planning.

At *Attachment B* is further information on maternal health in PNG.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR BOSWELL**

**Question 10**

Hansard, pp.104–105

**Senator Boswell asked:**

How many aid and development agencies that conduct overseas maternal health programs receive funding via the budget?

**Answer**

Approximately 40 organisations received funding from AusAID in 2009-10 specifically for maternal health programs or programs including maternal health components.

**Question 11**

Written question

**Senator Boswell asked:**

1. Since 3 June 2010 what new activities by non-government organisations with family planning components have been funded? Please provide details including funding amounts for the family planning component for each activity.
2. Do any of the family planning components for any activity being funded by AusAID include abortion services or training?
3. Has AusAID received any application for funding for any activity that includes abortion services or training?

**Answer**

* 1. The details of activities, with major family planning components, implemented by non-government organisations with contributions of Australian aid program funding, in 2010-11 to date, are provided in the table below:

| **Country** | **Organisation funded** | **Activity description** | **2010-11 funding ($)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Papua New Guinea | Maries Stopes International Australia | Information, education and service delivery (existing activity) | 79,283 |
| Fiji | Marie Stopes International Australia | Service delivery and capacity building with the Fiji Ministry of Health (existing activity) | 33, 470 |
| East Timor | Marie Stopes International Australia | Information, education and service delivery (existing activity) | 150,000 |
| East Timor | Health Alliance International | Field supervision and capacity building (existing activity) | 250,000 |
| Cambodia | Marie Stopes International Australia | Education, service delivery and capacity building (existing activity) | 78,564 |
| China | Marie Stopes International Australia | Capacity-building (new activity) | 79,283 |
| Mongolia | Marie Stopes International Australia | Capacity-building, service delivery training including drug and equipment supply (new activity) | 63,426 |
| Australia | Marie Stopes International Australia | Australian community education on the maternal health millennium development goal (new activity) | 20,000 |
| Indonesia | Marie Stopes International Australia | Design of the MSI “Increasing the availability of long-acting and permanent methods as a family planning choice for Indonesian men and women” project (new project) | 40,060 |
| Solomon Islands | Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia | Information and education (existing activity) | 28,400 |
| Fiji | Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia | Information and education (new activity) | 18,500 |
| Philippines | Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia | Education and service delivery  (new activity) | 10,000 |
| Global (181 countries) | International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) | Core funding against IPPF’s Strategic Framework (continuation of annual funding) | 9,000,000 |

* 1. Yes, in the 2010-11 financial year, and in line with the new Australian Aid Program Family Planning Guiding Principles released in August 2009, the aid program is funding abortion related services where national laws permit and other Guiding Principle conditions are met. AusAID funds two organisations that provide these services, Marie Stopes International (in Mongolia) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

In 2010-11, AusAID is supporting Marie Stopes International Australia to build the capacity of its local organisation, Marie Stopes International Mongolia (MSIM), to deliver quality sexual and reproductive health services. Consistent with the August 2009 Guiding Principles, this capacity building includes the supply of World Health Organization (WHO) approved medical abortion drugs, equipment and family planning commodities. Australia is also providing core funding to IPPF whose country member associations in turn provide family planning and reproductive health services in their specific locations. AusAID funding for IPPF, from 2010-11, is subject to the August 2009 Guiding Principles and therefore the use of AusAID funds for abortion related services is permitted in countries where these services are legal and are identified as a service delivery need.

c. Please see the response to part (b).

**Question 12**

Written question

**Senator Boswell asked:**

In the former Minister’s media release of 10 March 2009 the Minister referred stated that “*Around 68,000 women die each year as a result of unsafe abortions*.” In an answer given by Mr Proctor on 2 June 2009 at a previous estimates hearing it was stated “*There are huge numbers of illegal abortions in the developing world. A significant percentage can lead to the death or maiming of the mother. That is the figure that the minister is focused upon. Somewhere between 10 and 13 per cent of deaths in developing countries are from botched abortions.*”

The report “Trends in maternal mortality”, released by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank states that there were an estimated 358,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2008. A similar figure of 342,900 maternal deaths worldwide in 2008 was reported in the Lancet in April 2010. How does the Minister’s figure of 68,000 relate to this data? (If it were correct it would represent 19% of all maternal deaths worldwide from unsafe abortions.)

**Answer**

AusAID relies on published and peer reviewed data from international organisations with relevant expertise for information on the causes of maternal death, including from unsafe abortion. The figure for the number of women who die from unsafe abortion quoted in the Minister’s media release of 10 March 2009 was based on estimates from the WHO in its 2007 publication *Unsafe abortion: Global and regional estimates of the incidence of unsafe abortion and associated mortality in 2003*. In this publication, the WHO reported that the proportion of maternal deaths attributable to unsafe abortion had remained close to 13 per cent over time. In 2003, the number of maternal deaths linked to unsafe abortion was estimated to be about 66,500. In March 2009, these were the most recent United Nations figures available. The figure of 68,000 was based on the estimated increase since 2003.

In terms of the percentage of women currently dying from unsafe abortion, WHO’s 2007 publication *(referred to above)* remains the most current and authoritative source of data. The *Trends in Maternal Mortality* report does not revisit the causes of maternal death, beyond those attributable to HIV/AIDS in pregnancy, and therefore provides no update on the estimated number or percentage of deaths linked to unsafe abortion. What is known is that unsafe abortion is one of the major causes of maternal death in developing countries, 30 countries have made little or no progress in improving maternal health and there were an estimated 358,000 maternal deaths in 2008 (source: *Trends in Maternal Mortality 2010*).

**Question 13**

Written question

**Senator Boswell asked:**

1. How much funding does Marie Stopes or any of its affiliates receive from AusAID?
2. Is AusAID aware of the death of Durga Devi Khadka in May 2010 while undergoing an abortion at 10 weeks of pregnancy at a Marie Stopes facility in Damak Municipality in Nepal?
3. Is AusAID aware of the death of 15-year-old Alesah Thomas in Leeds in June 2007 from bacterial infection due to what the Coroner described as “procedural failings” by the Marie Stopes clinic where she was given a surgical abortion at 15 weeks of pregnancy?
4. If Marie Stopes applies for any funding for activities involving abortion training or services will AusAID take into account its record of involvement in maternal deaths following botched legal abortions?

**Answer**

a. As indicated in the table attached to question 25, estimated funding of Marie Stopes International in 2010-11, to date, totals $544,000.

b. & c AusAID is unable to comment on individual cases unrelated to Australian Government funding.

1. Marie Stopes International Australia is a fully accredited organisation under AusAID’s NGO Cooperation Program. The details of AusAID’s NGO accreditation process are available at [www.ausaid.gov.au/ngos/accreditation](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/ngos/accreditation). The accreditation process aims to provide AusAID, and the Australian public, with confidence that the Australian Government is funding professional, well managed, community based organisations that are capable of delivering quality development outcomes. The process is a rigorous one, undertaken by a three-member independent review team. Accreditation granted to an NGO, such as Marie Stopes International Australia, is valid for five years. However, maintaining accreditation status is dependent on the NGO meeting its responsibilities to AusAID, with the possibility of accreditation being revoked if responsibilities are not met.

**Question 14**

Written question

**Senator Boswell asked:**

In regard to the new Alliance announced on 22 September 2010 which includes the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:

a. How much funding will AusAID be contributing to this Alliance?

b. Is this additional to previously announced budget items?

c. What guidelines have been agreed for spending by the Alliance?

d. In particular, what is the approach to funding for abortion services?

**Answer**

a. The Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health is not a funding mechanism. Its purpose is to provide a means for joint planning, problem-solving and better coordination in implementing the individual aid programs of the Alliance members in specific countries.

b. There is no budget assigned to Australia’s membership of the Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health.

c. There are no guidelines as the Alliance is not an entity, which will hold or spend funds.

d. All programming coordinated with other partners will be governed by the policies and procedures of the individual development agencies involved.  Australian funded programs will be governed by the Australian Aid Program Family Planning Guiding Principles as is required by Australian Government policy.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR BROWN**

**Question 15**

Written question

**Senator Brown asked:**

1. How does the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) engage with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to monitor the performance of the ADF’s aid interventions and build its capacity to maximise aid effectiveness and “do no harm”? Does the ODE see this as its role?
2. Since its establishment, has the ODE conducted any reviews or evaluations Australia’s aid to Afghanistan? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
3. Has the ODE conducted a review, spot check or evaluation of the ADF’s implemented aid spending? If not, why not? If so, please provide.

**Answer**

a. ODE is yet to engage with the ADF to monitor its aid interventions. To date AusAID administered programs have been the primary focus of ODE performance monitoring, as the majority of Australia’s aid program is delivered through AusAID (2010-11 estimate—86.5 per cent). Moreover, it is not ODE’s role to directly build the capacity of other Government Departments. That said, AusAID provides training to Defence including ‘Do No Harm’ training for ADF personnel deploying to Afghanistan. This training seeks to inform and familiarise participants with the development principles that guide the work being done by AusAID.

b. No. ODE has not conducted any specific review or evaluation of Australia’s aid to Afghanistan. At present the security situation in Afghanistan precludes the kind of in-depth review of the Australian aid delivery that would typify a major ODE evaluation. However, AusAID’s aid activities in Afghanistan are monitored through AusAID’s own performance reporting system, through the application of standard quality at entry, peer review and quality at implementation reporting. In turn, these reports are subject to ODE’s annual spot-check, which tests the rigour and verifies the quality of the agency’s reporting. Two AusAID activities in Afghanistan—the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the UN Mine Action Centre Afghanistan, 2008—have been randomly selected and assessed through this process.

AusAID assistance to Afghanistan is also subject to external evaluations. Approximately half of AusAID assistance to Afghanistan is delivered through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) managed by the World Bank. ARTF programs are subject to regular independent monitoring and evaluations of their financial, policy and implementation progress. In addition, Afghanistan is participating in Phase 2 of the international evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration, which aims to assess the overall effectiveness of aid and its contribution to development results. The ODE has provided advice and support to AusAID’s Post in Afghanistan regarding the evaluation process.

c. No. See (a) above.

**Question 16**

Written question

**Senator Brown asked:**

1. Please provide a breakdown of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) eligible aid spending in each province in Afghanistan and Pakistan (as well as the amount of aid spent through the central Afghan and Pakistan governments), for 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10.
2. What proportion of this ODA eligible aid was delivered by AusAID, the ADF, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship or other Australian Government departments during this period?

**Answer**

a. AusAID records total ODA eligible spending for other government departments but does not record details of where within Afghanistan and Pakistan these funds were expensed. This information should be sought from the agencies responsible for the expenditure.

**Afghanistan**

In Afghanistan, AusAID funds programs, which operate either at the national level or within the province of Uruzgan. Expenditure on national programs include support for recurrent Afghan Government costs (including salaries), as well as Afghan Government programs delivered in all provinces. As such, it is impossible to provide an accurate breakdown of national program expenditure by province. The breakdown of these two components is approximately:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2007-08**  **(actual)** | **2008-09**  **(actual)** | **2009-10**  **(estimate)** |
| National programs | $55.69m | $46.92m | $56.19m |
| Uruzgan-specific programs | $0.007m | $0.836m | $1.60m |
| Activities funded through national programs and partially earmarked for Uruzgan | $10.25m | $22m | $11m |
| **Total AusAID expenditure (approx)** | **$65.95m** | **$69.76m** | **$68.79m** |

AusAID contributions to national programs that are channelled through the Afghan Government budget are delivered through the World Bank-managed Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). Contributions through the ARTF during this period were:

2007-08 $33 million (of $55.69 million)

2008-09 $21 million (of $46.92 million)

2009-10 $25 million (of $56.19 million)

**Pakistan**

A breakdown of AusAID’s ODA eligible aid spending in Pakistan by province for the2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years is outlined below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2007-08**  **(actual)** | **2008-09**  **(actual)** | **2009-10**  **(estimate)** |
| National/Central Government | $4m | $7.50m | $21.80m |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | $6.80m | $7.60m | $15m |
| Azad Jammu & Kashmir | $1.50m | $4.60m | $5m |
| Balochistan | $4m | $5m | $2.30m |
| Federally Administered Tribal Areas | $3m | $1.10m | nil |
| Punjab | $0.432 | $0.924 | $2.30m |
| Sindh | $0.117 | $0.206 | $0.570 |
| Gilgit Baltistan | nil | nil | $4.30m |
| **Total AusAID expenditure (approx)** | **$19.90m** | **$26.90m** | **$51.30m** |

b. **Afghanistan**

A percentage breakdown of ODA eligible expenditure by agency for the period is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency/department** | **2007-08**  **(actual)** | **2008-09**  **(actual)** | **2009-10**  **(estimate)** |
|  | % | % | % |
| AusAID | 48 | 44.70 | 52.90 |
| Immigration | 0.10 | 0.05 | 0.30 |
| ACIAR | 0.10 | 0.20 | 0.10 |
| AFP | 0.60 | 0.90 | 1.90 |
| Defence[[1]](#footnote-5) | 51.20 | 54.10 | 44.70 |
| Education, Employment and Workplace Relations | 0 | 0.05 | 0.10 |

**Pakistan**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency/Department** | **2007-08**  **(actual)** | **2008-09**  **(actual)** | **2009-10**  **(estimate)** |
|  | % | % | % |
| AusAID | 93 | 95 | 97 |
| ACIAR | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Attorney-Generals | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Education, Employment & Workplace Relations | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Education Science and Training | 2 | 0 | 0 |

**Question 17**

Written question

**Senator Brown asked:**

1. How does AusAID ensure policy coherence between Australia’s aid program and the ADF’s doctrine?
2. Does AusAID have access to scrutinize and influence relevant ADF doctrine, including Civil and Military Cooperation and counterinsurgency doctrine, to ensure that it is coherent with aid effectiveness commitments?
3. How does AusAID ensure coherence?

**Answer**

a. The development of military doctrine is a matter for the Department of Defence and AusAID is not involved in developing this doctrine. AusAID and Defence do however consult at a number of levels to ensure that both agencies are working together to meet the Government’s development and humanitarian policy priorities.

b. No. AusAID does not have access to scrutinise and influence relevant ADF doctrine. The development of military doctrine is a matter for the Department of Defence.

c. Cooperation exists between AusAID and Defence at a number of levels to ensure that both agencies are working together to meet the Government’s policy priorities.

At the strategic level, AusAID and Defence have established a Strategic Partnership Agreement that provides an opportunity to review and improve areas of cooperation between both organisations. The Agreement is underpinned by regular meetings between the AusAID Director General, the Secretary of Defence and the Chief of the Defence Force.

Cooperation between AusAID and Defence is also key to Australia’s ability to respond to disasters and humanitarian crises and to work in high risk environments. Cooperation between AusAID and Defence to deliver humanitarian support to Pakistan after the August 2010 floods demonstrates the ability of both organisations to work together effectively.

AusAID has placed a liaison officer within the Defence Head Quarters—Joint Operations Command to ensure cooperation at the working level is enhanced. The ADF has placed two seconded officers in AusAID’s Australian Civilian Corp to improve mutual understanding between the ACC and the ADF.

AusAID provides training to a range of Defence personnel, including conducting ‘Safe and Effective Development in Conflict’ training for ADF and Australian Government personnel as part of pre-deployment preparations for service in Afghanistan. This training seeks to inform and familiarise ADF personnel with the development principles that guide the work being done by AusAID in Afghanistan.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR KROGER**

**Question 18**

Written question

**Senator Kroger asked:**

1. Could you please provide a summary of activities and funding in relation to AusAID's activities in Pakistan relating to the recent flood disaster?
2. Various news articles report on how the Taliban interfere in the aid delivery. Could you please provide further information?
3. What knowledge do you have about the influence of terror organizations in the delivery of aid Pakistan and in other countries?

**Answer**

a. Australia has committed $75 million in emergency relief and early recovery assistance in response to the Pakistan floods, making us the fifth largest bilateral contributor to Pakistan flood relief effort. This funding comprises:

Emergency response activities ($50 million):

* World Food Programme (WFP) **($19 million)** for the provision of emergency food, logistics and telecommunications support. Australia is the second largest donor to WFP flood relief programs
* United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs **($3 million)** to support coordination of emergency relief efforts between United Nations agencies, non-government organisations and the Government of Pakistan
* United Nations Children’s Fund **($9 million)** for the provision of clean water and hygiene education to prevent disease and support children through nutrition, immunisation and protection activities
* World Health Organization (WHO) (**$2 million)** for medication, health services and disease monitoring services across Pakistan
* United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees **($3 million)** for the provision of emergency shelter, non-food items and protection services
* Australian non-government organisations **($7.5 million)** for relief and early recovery activities
* The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement **($5.5 million)** to support the provision of health services, emergency shelter, food and non-food items
* The deployment of Australian experts through RedR Australia to support United Nations agencies and deployment of emergency relief items **($1 million)** including tents, tarpaulins, generators, water purification tablets, birthing kits and mosquito nets.

Early Recovery activities ($25 million):

* Save the Children **($5 million)** for the provision of educational and recreational supplies and assistance to get children back to school;
* CARITAS Australia **($1.7 million)** to restore livelihoods of around 10,000

flood-affected households in rural areas in Sindh and Balochistan;

* ActionAID Australia **($800,000)** for water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) and livelihood opportunities for women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Punjab;
* Oxfam Australia **($600,000)** to help restore on and off-farm livelihoods for 10,500 flood-affected people in KPK;
* RedR Australia deployment **($350,000)** to deploy three trained health professionals to support the health cluster in Punjab and Sindh through the WHO;
* Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN **($3.3 million)** for the distribution of sunflower seeds (an alternate crop to over 16,000 farming households to revive agriculture and livelihoods);
* WHO **($2 million)** for the delivery of essential medicines and supplies; restoration of health services; and managing malnutrition;
* United Nations’ Children Fund (UNICEF) **($7 million)** for the provision of assistance to flood-affected mothers, newborns and children and the provision of educational equipment and establishment of temporary schools;
* United Nations Development Programme **($2 million)** for the provision of agriculture supplies and equipment to restore livelihoods;
* International Planned Parenthood Federation Southeast Asia **($250,000)** for the provision of medical services for women in flood affected areas;
* World Food Programme **($2 million)** for the provision of assistance for food, including through cash and food for work programs.

Funding has been paid out for the $50 million emergency response activities. $5.1 million has been paid out for early recovery activities through Australian NGOs. Funding orders are being negotiated for the remaining expenditure of $19.9 million.

In addition to Australia’s $75 million contribution, AusAID also jointly mobilised the Australian Medical Task Force (AMTF) with the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Between 2 September 2010 and 20 October 2010 the AMTF provided health assistance to over 11,000 patients at Kot Addu in Pakistan’s Punjab Province. The facility was staffed by ADF and civilian medical personnel (drawn from Australian State and Territory health departments).

b. AusAID cannot verify whether the information reported in the media is correct and therefore cannot provide any further information.

1. There have been media reports that organisations linked to terrorism have been providing charity in the wake of the Pakistan floods. AusAID cannot verify whether the information reported in the media is correct.

Providing advice on the influence of terror organisations in Pakistan or any other country is not the role of AusAID. This question is best responded to by DFAT or Australia’s intelligence agencies.

Prior to the floods Pakistan was already dealing with major security and development challenges. The floods were a further setback for Pakistan. The Australian aid program will continue to support the Pakistan Government’s efforts to meet critical development challenges as the focus now shifts from flood relief to early recovery and reconstruction.

AusAID funding for flood relief and recovery activities has been provided through trusted international humanitarian partners, such as United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and reputable Australian NGOs. Contracts and agreements with these implementing partners include clauses on anti-terrorism, anti-fraud and anti-corruption as a contractual safeguard against misuse and to ensure that funds reach their intended beneficiaries, and are not influenced by terror organisations. This includes specific provisions to ensure that funds are not used in any way to provide direct or indirect support or resources to organisations and individuals associated with terrorism. All Australian non-government organisations undergo AusAID’s accreditation process.

**Question 19**

Written question

**Senator Kroger asked:**

1. Given the recent attacks on foreign aid workers could you please advise on security measures to protect Australian aid workers?
2. In relation to an article published by the Australian on August 27 under the headline: Aussie aid workers under threat. Is the information correct that Taliban forces are especially targeting foreigners participating in the flood relief operation?
3. How serious do you take such warnings/comments?
4. What extra security measures have you provided?

**Answer**

a. Australian aid workers have assisted with flood relief efforts in Pakistan in a range of organisational capacities, including as representatives of Australian NGOs; United Nations agencies; the Australian Medical Task Force (AMTF); and AusAID. Australian aid workers deployed with Australian NGOs and the United Nations are subject to the security policies and protection measures of the organisation in which they work.

AMTF civilian members (including AusAID, Emergency Management Australia and Australian State/Territory medical personnel) were provided with protection under arrangements agreed between the Australian Defence Force and the Pakistan Military.

b. AusAID cannot verify whether the information reported in the Australian on 27 August 2010 is correct. The security arrangements for Australian aid workers in Pakistan are set out in the response to Question 5(a) above.

c. AusAID takes all reports of security risks very seriously. We take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of our staff. Our staff work under strict and established security protocols and procedures at the Islamabad High Commission, led by DFAT. In Afghanistan, AusAID staff work under security protocols and procedures as part of the Embassy and the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Uruzgan.

d. The Pakistan Military provided protection for the AMTF under arrangements agreed with the Australian Defence Force.

**Question 20**

Hansard, p. 97

**Senator Kroger asked:**

Please provide the staff turnover rates in AusAID (APS and other) for 2005-2009 and January-July 2010. Please differentiate between separation rates and lateral movement rates.

**Answer**

**Separation rates**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Year** | **Total number of separations** | **Total number of staff** | **Rate** |
| 2004 - 2005 | 91 | 514 | 17.7% |
| 2005 - 2006 | 99 | 569 | 17.4% |
| 2006 - 2007 | 93 | 637 | 14.6% |
| 2007 - 2008 | 99 | 798 | 12.4% |
| 2008 - 2009 | 82 | 915 | 9.0% |
| 2009 - 2010 | 85 | 1004 | 8.5% |

**Lateral movement**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Year** | **Total number of lateral movements** | **Total number of staff** | **Move on average** |
| 2004 - 2005 | - | 514 |  |
| 2005 - 2006 | - | 569 |  |
| 2006 - 2007 | - | 637 |  |
| 2007 - 2008 | 983 | 798 | every 10 months |
| 2008 - 2009 | 770 | 915 | every 15 months |
| 2009 - 2010 | 712 | 1004 | every 18 months |

\*Statistics supplied are for APS staff only. AusAID has recently begun implementing electronic record keeping through the Aurion HR system for Posts, which will allow reporting on other movement in the future. Two posts have been implemented this financial year.

In 2007, system codes were refined to improve how transfers at level were recorded in the HR system at that time. For example, prior to 2007 it is not possible to distinguish between a transfer to another position, and salary advancement in the same position. Since 2007 improved definitions for transfer codes have seen a fall in numbers of transfers at level, but the data prior to 2007 was therefore not reliably measured. Figures for 2007 show staff changed roles on average every 10 months; this has improved in the 2009-10 financial year to every 18 months.

**Question 21**

Written question

**Senator Kroger asked:**

What efforts have been undertaken to improve staff turnover rates as suggested by the ANAO report?

**Answer**

AusAID has introduced a number of measures to address staff turnover rates. The agency has clearly articulated its expectation that it will not normally agree to movement of staff who have been in their current position for less than two years, and a revised posting guideline places the same restrictions on the selection of staff for overseas posting. AusAID has aligned all posting terms to that of its portfolio partner DFAT, increasing most postings to three years, which will assist in stabilising staff movement. AusAID has also commenced a series of generic recruitment rounds to fill new positions created because of the expanding development program. This will reduce the requirement to move staff internally to do the new tasks flowing from the expansion of the development program.

**Question 22**

Written question

**Senator Kroger asked:**

1. Have any countries raised concerns about Australia's aid program?
2. What are those concerns?
3. What response has there been?

**Answer**

a. Yes.

b. Representatives from the Governments of Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Solomon Islands have previously raised some concerns about the use and remuneration of advisers under the Australian aid program.

Members of the Government of East Timor have raised broad criticisms about the focus of Australian aid, and reports of the closure of the Peace Dividend Trust due to a lack of Australian funding.

c. As announced in the May Budget Statement, a review of adviser positions funded by the aid program is currently being undertaken jointly by AusAID and partner governments. The review will ensure that each position is meeting agreed development needs and will result in an agreed process for regularly reviewing the use and performance of advisers, and for considering new requests for adviser positions. AusAID is also developing an adviser remuneration framework that will place downward pressure on adviser remuneration packages; and a policy on the use of advisers that will set out the circumstances in which the Australian aid program supports the use of advisers.

In December 2009 the Governments of Australia and East Timor agreed to a new five-year strategy for Australia’s development assistance to East Timor. The Government of East Timor has repeatedly reaffirmed satisfaction of the new approach as outlined in the Strategy and thanked AusAID for its support. AusAID continues to work in close collaboration with the Government of East Timor in implementing the Strategy.

In relation to the Peace Dividend Trust, in June 2010 AusAID advised the Trust that it would continue funding its operations until June 2011 to allow the transfer of activities to the Government as agreed with East Timor’s Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry. This was misreported as a decision to cease funding immediately, drawing concern from parts of government not directly involved with the Trust’s activities. Australian officials in East Timor met with concerned parties to clarify what the decision was and the basis for it, and the issue has been resolved.

**Question 23**

**Hansard, p. 103**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

**Perhaps table for us anything that you have in written form on AusAID’s interaction directly both with the sovereign wealth fund but more broadly some of the issues that you were discussing before?**

**Answer**

Australia and PNG have agreed a *Joint Understanding between Papua New Guinea and Australia on further cooperation on the PNG LNG Project.* This *Joint Understanding* sets out mutual understandings and commitments by Australia and PNG in support of the PNG Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) was the lead Australian Government agency in the development of the *Joint Understanding*, and it is available for download from the DFAT website. AusAID, along with other Australian Government agencies, were consulted in the drafting of the *Joint Understanding*.

AusAID has provided initial advice to PNG on the capacity of the PNG economy to absorb the projected LNG revenue flow and an options paper on economic modelling and analysis of the PNG LNG Project. Dr Mark McGillivray (AusAID’s Senior Associate) and Professor Paresh Narayan (Professor of Finance at Deakin University) are scheduled to visit PNG in early 2011 to begin detailed scoping of the economic modelling required.

As part of implementing the *Joint Understanding*, AusAID has approved funding of $100,000 to the Australian Department of Finance and Deregulation to advise and assist with the development of sovereign wealth funds for managing revenue from the LNG project.

Ministers agreed in Alotau on 7-8 July 2010 that Australia and PNG officials would conduct a rapid capacity assessment to identify short-term capacity gaps in PNG departments and agencies because of additional demands generated by the construction phase of the LNG project. Key areas where capacity challenges have been identified include customs, immigration and environment. Australia is awaiting clarification from PNG on the assistance it is requesting from Australia to help address these capacity gaps. The Alotau statement is available online at http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2010/fa-s100709a.html.

**Question 24**

**Written question**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

1. I understand that the companies Origin Energy and PNG Energy Developments are meant to sign a MOU to build a new hydroelectric plant in PNG. Is AusAID aware whether this document has been signed?
2. Is AusAID involved in any way in this project (e.g. providing advice for the feasibility study)?
3. QLD Premier Anna Bligh is quoted in newspapers that this project would "transform the economic development prospects of western PNG". Do you share this assessment?
4. Is it correct that PNG is supposed to use the additional baseload power to compete for industrial projects in their resource-rich country? How important do you rate this provision for the further advancement of PNG's economic development?

**Answer**

a. AusAID understands that the Governments of Queensland and PNG signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 15 September 2010 with PNG Energy Developments Ltd (PNG EDL) and Origin Energy Limited, to support the potential development of a renewable hydro electricity project.

b. No.

c. & d We have had no involvement in the project and have made no assessments of its potential economic impact. While a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed, the project is still to undergo a feasibility study and its economic feasibility is to be confirmed. The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby is following developments.

**Question 25**

Hansard, pp. 107-108

**Senator Kroger asked:**

I understand that AusAID is filming and producing a six-part television series for Prime Television called “Prime Project” which will showcase people from regional Australia involved in aid delivery internationally. The aim of the series is to broaden public knowledge of Australia’s aid programs. The program will feature Australians working for non-government organisations, volunteers and AusAID staff. Total value of the Prime Project is $750,000 (2010-11 and 2011-12). Expenditure to date is approximately $147,000. (Source: answers to question on notice by Department of Foreign Affairs, Page 35)

1. Has AusAID already signed a contract with a TV station which will broadcast the series?
2. When will the shows be broadcasted?
3. How many viewers do you expect to reach?
4. Will TV series also be embedded as stream on AusAID website (similar to what major TV stations nowadays do)?
5. What projects will be topic in the series?
6. What advertising agency has won the contract? What is the value of the contract?

**Answer**

a. No.

1. We anticipate offering the stories to the Australia Network in early 2011-12 but broadcast scheduling would be a matter for the Australia Network. Earlier plans to offer the stories for domestic broadcast are no longer part of the project.
2. Australia Network broadcasts throughout the Asia Pacific region. Programs are usually repeated and it is difficult to anticipate the number of viewers.
3. The stories will be posted on the AusAID website and YouTube channel. They will also be distributed on DVD and we will investigate offering them to television stations overseas.
4. The project includes an estimated 15 stories involving Australians working on aid projects in the region, such as:
   * Disaster Prevention, with a Development Officer for the Australia-Indonesia Disaster Reduction Facility, Indonesia
   * Infrastructure and Rebuilding after a Disaster, with a senior representative for Coffey International Development, Indonesia
   * Communicable Disease prevention, with a veterinary epidemiologist with the WHO, Laos
   * Microfinance, with a representative from Opportunity International, Philippines
   * HIV Education and Poverty Reduction, with a volunteer from SEADO (Sharing Experience for Adapted Development) and World Food Programme, Cambodia
   * Agronomy and Pest Management, with a scientist from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Vietnam
   * Education and Capacity Building, with a volunteer from Know One Train One, Vietnam
5. The project is not being produced by an advertising agency. This is an internally managed project overseen by AusAID’s Communication and Research Branch. AusAID does not have an in-house filming and editing capability, so filming and editing have been contracted to Caption It Pty Ltd. Caption It Pty Ltd have a

market-tested Period Offer for Visual Communications with AusAID. The value of the services order is $355,000.

**Question 26**

**Written question**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

**Pacific scholarships**

Would you please update the committee on progress made in the Pacific-Australia Award program?

**Answer**

The Prime Minister’s Pacific-Australia Award (PMPA) program commenced in March 2010. 30 people have received an award: 17 from PNG; three from Fiji; three from Tonga; two from Timor Leste; two from Vanuatu, and one each from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Of the 30 recipients 11 are female, 19 are male. The fields of study include health, journalism, development, education, law, public policy, maritime policy, international trade, and environment. The award recipients are also able to undertake work placements as part of the award.

Two of the first cohort of awardees have successfully completed work placements in Sydney and Brisbane. The remainder will take up placements in 2011.

A managing contractor (Austraining) was contracted in July 2010.

**Question 27**

**Hansard, p. 99**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

In relation to the one adviser mentioned whose package had been renegotiated to fall below $400,000, can you give us some more details about that?

**Answer**

The renegotiation of the adviser’s package occurred at the point in the contract when AusAID and the adviser were considering an extension. The adviser has many years of experience in the field of infrastructure and provides unique advice across a range of development programs. This advice is highly valued by the partner government.The adviser’s new contract provides for total fees of $26,596 per month to be payable for over ten months of full time work.

**Question 28**

**Written question**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

**Please provide a breakdown of the roles of advisers working in PNG. Please include information on the job description, contract value, length of contract and whether this role could be phased out in the next two years as suggested by the PNG adviser review?**

**Answer**

In line with AusAID's obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988*, AusAID does not release personal details of individual adviser positions.

There are currently 487 long-term adviser positions funded under the Australian aid program to PNG. The positions cover a range of roles and types of advisers, including those providing high-level strategic and policy advice to PNG’s department heads and senior managers, those supporting technical functions in areas such as health, education, law and justice and transport, and those supporting corporate functions such as planning, human resources, finance and information technology. Advisers are also supporting the oversight and management of Australian aid funds and helping to manage the implementation of various aid programs (for instance as team leaders of managing contractor teams in-country).

The average remuneration package (salary and allowances) of a commercially-contracted long-term international adviser is $280,000 per year with an average contract length of two years.

Of the 487 adviser positions, 181 adviser positions will be phased out within two years, as agreed with the Government of PNG. These positions are from program sectors as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Sector*** | **Total number of adviser positions** | **Adviser positions to be phased out** |
| Governance | 169 | 45 |
| Health | 97 | 50 |
| Law and Justice | 94 | 34 |
| Infrastructure | 47 | 11 |
| Education | 25 | 13 |
| Rural Development | 21 | 18 |
| HIV | 11 | 4 |
| Higher Education | 10 | 2 |
| Cross-cutting | 8 | 1 |
| Environment | 4 | 3 |
| Humanitarian | 1 | 0 |
| **Total** | **487** | **181** |

**Question 29**

**Written question**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

**In relation to the AusAID contracts over $400,000, which, if any, are marked to be phased out in the next two years as suggested by the PNG adviser review?**

**Answer**

The PNG bilateral aid program currently has three advisers on remuneration packages (salary and allowances) of over A$400,000 per year. Two of the adviser positions are in the law and justice sector and one is providing strategic advice and guidance on public sector reform and governance. All three of these adviser positions were ranked as high priority by the PNG Government through the PNG Adviser Review and are not expected to be phased out over the next two years.

In terms of the contract provisions for these three adviser roles, the contract for one of the positions in the law and justice sector is due to conclude in February 2011, at which point AusAID will recruit for a further two-year period using an open international tender process, with remuneration rates determined in accordance with AusAID’s new adviser remuneration framework. The incumbents in the other two positions are on contracts until April 2011 and June 2012, which will be reviewed in a similar way to the first position.

**Question 30**

**Hansard, p. 100**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

**Can AusAID provide information on the appointment of the PNG gender adviser under contract notice CN335065? What was the period of the contract?**

**Answer**

Ms Rose Gawaya was contracted under notice CN335065 from 1 April 2010 to 1 April 2011. Please see Q36 for detailed information.

**Question 31**

**Written question**

**Senator Kroger asked:**

1. Please provide further information on tender CN335065, which was published on September 29 on the AusTender website. I understand that a 1 year contract was awarded to Ms Rose Gawaya with the value of almost $350,000. What are her responsibilities?
2. Why was the contract awarded to Ms Gawaya?
3. Please provide a breakdown of the almost $350,000 remuneration package.
4. What is the benchmark criteria for this project?
5. What has been achieved in the first 3 months?
6. Have Gender Advisers been contracted to PNG before? If so, what have they achieved and what was the respective remuneration package?

**Answer**

a. Ms Gawaya is the current Gender Adviser in PNG. This position provides expert advice to Australia’s development program in PNG to implement the Australian Government’s Gender Equality Policy and its PNG program gender strategy, *Equality Matters;* *gender equality and women’s empowerment strategy PNG Program*

*2010-2015*. She also assists the Government of PNG to implement PNG’s *Gender Policy* and *Family and Sexual Violence Strategy*. This is instrumental in decreasing violence against women, a serious problem in PNG, and in the effort to increase the number of women in leadership roles, critical to the future of PNG and its people.

b. In accordance with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, AusAID conducted an open international tender process. The position was advertised in The Weekend Australian, the New Zealand Herald, the PNG Post Courier and the PNG National. It was also advertised on the AusAID Development Gateway and international development sites. There were 19 applications for the role with four candidates short-listed. Candidates were rated based on their written response to the selection criteria and an interview. Ms Gawaya was rated the most suitable candidate for the position.

c. In line with AusAID's obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988*, AusAID does not release personal details of individual adviser positions. Ms Gawaya’s monthly professional fee is in line with AusAID’s interim guidance on adviser fee rates and the allowance component of her total remuneration package is country specific and according to family composition.

d. The performance for this position is benchmarked against the terms of reference for the role of Adviser for gender equality. Ms Gawaya’s performance is measured against an annual workplan. In accordance with her contract, she provides quarterly reporting of concrete achievements against her agreed annual work objectives in line with the terms of reference.

e. Since being recruited the Gender Adviser has:

* developed a proposal for a trilateral (Australia/US/PNG) initiative to improve the coordination of Government of PNG and non-government organisation services which provide support to victims of gender based violence in PNG, which was announced during the visit of US Secretary Clinton and will now be taken forward
* provided input to the Government of PNG’s gender policy
* strengthened AusAID PNG Post’s workplace domestic violence policy
* strengthened AusAID PNG Post’s internal mechanisms and processes to improve our support to poor women and men
* developed plans of action to implement gender strategies within AusAID PNG programs
* supported AusAID program staff to make achieving specific gender outcomes part of their personal work plans
* designed a major national campaign to enhance the visibility and use of the AusAID-PNG gender strategy and gender issues more broadly in PNG.

f. Yes. One previous Gender Adviser worked with AusAID from 2008-2009.

The previous Gender Integration Adviser’s total remuneration package was A$273,000

The contracting of a Gender Integration Adviser in 2008 raised the profile of gender in the PNG program. Specifically, the previous Gender Adviser:

* worked with UNICEF to establish ‘Stop Violence Centres’ in general hospitals and to improve access to medical treatment and counselling services for victims,
* led Australia's response to the Office of Development Effectiveness’ *Evaluation of Violence Against Women in Melanesia*
* provided advice to sectoral programs to address gender issues more effectively

conducted stock takes across the PNG program and produced the PNG program gender strategy “*Equality Matters, Gender equality and women’s empowerment* *strategy PNG Program 2010-2015”*. The strategy remains the platform of the current implementation of gender work across the program.

**Question 32**

Written question

**Senator Kroger asked:**

In answer to Question 16 you advised that on 31 July 2010 there were a total of 1,204 advisors working across the aid program.

1. Please advise how many advisers were working across the aid program on 31 July 2009, 31 July 2008, 31 July 2007, 31 July 2006 and 31 July 2005.
2. How long is the average contract for a long-term adviser?

**Answer**

a. AusAID does not have information on adviser numbers for the specified dates. In 2010 AusAID conducted analysis on the use and remuneration of advisers across the aid program, capturing data for 31 January 2010 and 31 July 2010. AusAID will continue to monitor and report on adviser use every six months (January and July).

b. The median contract length for a long-term adviser is two years.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR LUDLAM**

**Question 33**

**Hansard, p. 102**

**Senator Ludlam asked (on behalf of Senator Hanson-Young):**

In relation to PNG can you provide us with some further information on how future support for maternal and newborn and child health in PNG specifically as to how it is hoping to progress the recommendations of the PNG government's maternal health task force report?

1. Please table anything recent that you have got that might not have been in the public domain to date on that. That would be greatly appreciated.

**Answer**

1. AusAID provided information at the Senate Estimates hearing on 18 October 2010 on AusAID’s activities to progress the recommendations from the *PNG Ministerial Task Force Report on Maternal Health*. At *Attachment B* is further information on maternal and reproductive health in PNG.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR TROOD**

**Question 34**

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

I note that in the Contract Notice View (22 Feb 2010) for the provision of security to Kabul the contract period was from 1 February 2010-30 June 2010 and that the original value was $1 650 000.

a. Is that correct?

b, The latest Contract Notice View (amended 15 Sep 2010) states that the contract period has been extended from 1 February 2010 - 6 Aug 2010 and that the new contract value is $3 850 000. Why has the contract value almost doubled in price?

c. How was this price determined?

**Answer**

a. Yes.

b & c. Details of the AusAID contract with CRG for security services in Afghanistan are in the process of being updated on the AusTender website. The updated details are:

* + The value and time period of the original contract:

1 February to 30 June 2010 (five months)—$1,650,000 (including GST)

* + The value and time period of the contract extension:

1 July to 31 December 2010 (six months)—$2,420,000 (including GST)

* + The total value of the contract and total period of the contract:

1 February to 31 December 2010—$4,070,000 (including GST)

The increased value of the contract is due to CRG being requested to provide additional security services directly linked to delivering a larger AusAID program in Afghanistan. The renewed contract included services for an additional AusAID officer posted to the Australian Embassy, Kabul and for an increased number of AusAID personnel visiting Kabul. Visitors to the AusAID office in Kabul come from Australia and elsewhere in Afghanistan, including Kandahar and Tarin Kot, where a number of AusAID personnel are deployed as part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, Uruzgan. The increased number of visitors has meant that additional Close Personal Protection teams were required and that additional armoured vehicles needed to be leased for the majority of the contract extension.

The price is determined as per the initial contract agreement with a set price per service multiplied by the number of services required.

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR XENOPHON**

**Question 35**

Written question

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

What long-term assistance and forecasting has been planned for or is being conducted in regards to providing assistance to Afghanistan to comprehensively meet humanitarian and development needs? (i.e. what ongoing aid and assistance will be provided to Afghanistan after Australian troops are withdrawn?)

**Answer**

AusAID, along with other government agencies, is engaged in ongoing planning and forecasting in relation to Australia’s commitment to Afghanistan. During the November Parliamentary debate on Afghanistan, Prime Minister Gillard indicated that Australia was likely to remain engaged in Afghanistan during this decade and beyond, including through a civilian-led aid and development effort aimed at facilitating improvements in governance and socio-economic development, strengthening institutions and delivering basic services. The Australian aid program will be an important component of this engagement.

AusAID’s engagement in Afghanistan is guided by an Afghanistan country program strategy, to be published in December 2010. The strategy sets out the key priorities and sectors of focus for the Australian aid program, both nationally and in Uruzgan. The strategy reflects decisions taken by the Government through an ongoing series of Cabinet processes on Afghanistan, to which AusAID has contributed.

During 2010, in order to resource an increased level of engagement in Afghanistan, the AusAID staff presence in-country increased from three to eight. The AusAID country program increased by more that 50 per cent in 2010-11, from $70 million to $106 million. Following the draw-down of the Dutch military and development presence in Uruzgan from August 2010, AusAID became the lead development actor within the multi-national Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

During 2010, AusAID undertook a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) for Uruzgan. The CNA is informing the development plans and activities of the PRT, which is led by an Australian civilian and includes five AusAID staff. Using the CNA as a basis, the PRT is supporting the Uruzgan provincial administration to develop a Provincial Development Plan, which will define the Provincial Government’s development priorities. At an operational level, AusAID conducts ongoing joint planning with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Defence Force, including in relation to stabilisation activities.

AusAID will remain intimately involved in Australian Government planning processes on Afghanistan, including in relation to the planned transition of security responsibilities to Afghan authorities according to the timetable set out at the NATO Lisbon Conference in November 2010. Decisions on the nature and scale of Australian involvement in Afghanistan will be taken by the Government at the appropriate time.

**Question 36**

Written question

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

According to the ANAO Audit Report, AusAID manages 80 percent of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). What agencies manage the remaining 20 percent, and on what programs, and in which regions?

**Answer**

Attachment A is a list of ODA expenditure by other government departments and agencies for the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 years. Information by Government agency, on activity, region and value, is available for the 2008-09 year and is included in *Attachment A.*

The 2009-10 figures in *Attachment A* are the estimated outcome, as at May 2010 Budget. The 2010-11 figures in *Attachment A* are the budget estimate, as at May 2010 Budget. The 2009-10 actuals will be finalised and published in the May 2011 Budget and the 2010-11 expected outcome will be included in the May Budget.

**Question 37**

Written question

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

World Vision and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) have highlighted to me the need for greater transparency and accountability of Overseas Development Assistance, in particular to Afghanistan.

1. What are the current reporting requirements?
2. Will the Department follow Canada's lead and provide quarterly reports to Parliament on government program expenditure?

**Answer**

a. The current public reporting requirements for Australian aid to Afghanistan are the same as for the rest of the Australian international aid program. The detail of Australian aid flows from both AusAID and other Australian public sector agencies is provided to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on a calendar year basis. These details are then published by the DAC in a public aid statistics facility on the OECD website. Details can be extracted on all activities by Australia benefitting any particular country, including Afghanistan.

Within Australia, summary data is provided in the annual budget statement on the Australian aid program, released in conjunction with the Federal Budget in May each year. More detail is provided in AusAID's annual report. Summary details of total Australian aid, including that delivered by Departments and agencies other than AusAID, are also provided in AusAID's periodic *Statistical Summaries of Australia's international aid program*. Ad hoc public reporting is also provided in response to a range of public queries, including Parliamentary Questions on Notice, and Questions in Writing.

b. It is not current Australian Government policy to provide quarterly public reports on aid program expenditure.

**Question 38**

Hansard, p. 95

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

**Is there a policy imperative or is there any view in terms of the use of genetically modified organisms in terms of the food program?**

**Answer**

No. AusAID does not possess a policy imperative nor take a particular view regarding the use of genetically modified organisms in terms of the food program. AusAID takes a case-by-case approach to supporting plant or animal research undertaken within appropriate regulatory frameworks and institutions and in line with the relevant partner country and Australian legislation.

**Question 39**

Hansard, p. 94

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

In the last financial year, how much was spent on technical assistance to PNG, Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu?

**Answer**

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and AusAID define technical assistance as activities that have a “primary purpose to augment the level of knowledge, skills, technical know-how or productive aptitudes of the population of developing countries”. This includes for example the use of experts, advice from public servants, scholarships, training and volunteers.

Public interest to date has centred on the use of advisers as a form of technical assistance. AusAID is currently developing systems to accurately track adviser use and remuneration across the aid program and in the future will be able to provide estimates of adviser expenditure over financial years. This year AusAID has undertaken a review, jointly with partner governments, of adviser positions funded under the aid program. The review covered long-term adviser positions, which were in place (or planned) in the 2010-11 financial year. This included both expatriate and national advisers; those on commercial contracts and Australian government officials deployed overseas as advisers. (The review did not cover short-term advisers, advisers funded via multilateral initiatives such as RAMSI, or advisers recruited directly by multilateral organisations or partner governments using their own systems.)

Based on the review, estimates of expenditure on long-term advisers in the current financial year (2010–11) are provided in the table below. These are based on estimates of adviser remuneration (salary and allowances) and do not include management or overhead costs associated with the provision of advisers.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Bilateral Program**  **2010-11 (million AUD)** | **Number of adviser positions reviewed** | **Estimated expenditure on long-term adviser remuneration (million AUD)** | **Adviser expenditure as a percentage of total bilateral expenditure** |
| Papua New Guinea | 415 | 487 | 107.9 | 26% |
| East Timor \* | 69 | 82 | 10.5 | 15% |
| Vanuatu | 49.3 | 38 | 9.1 | 18% |
| Solomon Islands \*\* | 51 | 24 | 3.3 | 6% |

\*

Figures for East Timor do not include AFP positions under the Timor-Leste Police Development Program.

\*\* Figures for the Solomon Islands are for the bilateral program only and do not include advisers engaged under RAMSI.

**Question 40**

Hansard, pp. 94-95

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

How does AusAID assess the effectiveness of expenditure on technical assistance and what benchmarks or KPIs does it set?

**Answer**

AusAID has in place a Performance Management and Evaluation Policy and has a performance management and reporting system that provides ongoing measurement and evaluation of the quality of the Australian aid program to ensure effectiveness. The Office of Development Effectiveness tests the rigour and quality of the reporting system and produces an Annual Review of Development Effectiveness that is tabled in Parliament.

‘Technical assistance’ refers to activities that have a “primary purpose to augment the level of knowledge, skills, technical know-how or productive aptitudes of the population of developing countries”. This includes the use of experts, as well as scholarships, training and volunteers. Currently AusAID does not have a standard set of benchmarks or KPIs specifically to assess the effectiveness of expenditure on technical assistance. The assessment of the effectiveness of technical assistance is captured in the broader performance management and reporting system as described above.

In relation to the use of advisers, which is one way of providing technical assistance, AusAID has undertaken a review of adviser positions in the aid program, a key element of the review was to agree and establish clear processes, with our partner governments, for regularly reviewing and for considering new requests for adviser positions. AusAID is also developing a policy on the use of advisers, which will set out the circumstances in which the Australian aid program supports the use of advisers and set some minimum standards for planning, managing and reporting on adviser use. In addition, AusAID has in place a contractor performance management system, which requires regular review of adviser performance. This performance management system will be a key element of an Adviser Remuneration Framework to be released in 2011, which aims to ensure that advisers are not only cost effective but also represent value for money

**Question 41**

Hansard, pp. 95-96, 106

**Senators Xenophon and Kroger asked:**

What progress has AusAID made towards implementing the six recommendations made in the ANAO's 2010: AusAID's management of the expanding Australian aid program report?

In relation to the ANAO report, where is AusAID at, at this point in time?

**Answer**

Significant progress has been made on all six recommendations of the ANAO audit: actions on recommendations 5 and 6 are fully complete; and the remaining 4 are being implemented and will be complete by June 2011.

AusAID’s response to the ANAO audit is monitored by AusAID’s Audit Committee, which reports to the Director General. In addition, a Corporate Reform Committee, chaired by the Director General, ensures coherence and alignment across the suite of reforms the agency has embarked upon, beyond the immediate recommendations of the ANAO audit.

* Recommendation 1: [Human resource management] In order to better support program management, AusAID refine its approaches to human resource management, including by: regularly monitoring, and analysing the key drivers behind staff turnover and developing strategies to increase the length of time staff spend in roles; and increasing management responsibilities of locally engaged staff, where appropriate, including in relation to management of APS personnel.

This recommendation has been completed. AusAID has improved its information systems to collect and analyse data on staff turnover. The Human Resources Information System (Aurion) has been reconfigured, and new data is now regularly included in Quarterly Executive Reports and Quarterly Branch Reviews as of the third quarter 2008-09.

A guideline on the overseas posting process was released on 21 September 2010 including formal notification that employees who have been in their current position for greater than two years will be preferred. In addition the length of posting terms has been increased to three years in most cases, to align with our portfolio partners DFAT. An Administrative Circular was published on 23 September 2010 outlining the principle that staff will be expected to remain in a position for two years.

AusAID is also considering how to increase management responsibilities of locally engaged staff.

* Recommendation 2: [Country and Regional Strategies, and multi-year indicative commitments] In order to make country and regional strategies more central to aid allocation decisions, and thereby improve selectivity of aid investment, AusAID: completes strategies for all major country and regional programs, and keeps them up to date; and builds on the framework provided by Pacific Partnerships for Development, by including indicative multi-year resource allocations in all country and regional strategies.

AusAID will have up to date, publicly available strategies guiding the 20 largest ODA programs by the end of 2010. All country, regional and thematic programs will have up to date, publicly available strategies in place by June 30, 2011. These will be maintained and refreshed as necessary thereafter.

Where a government to government partnership or country strategy approach is not appropriate, AusAID is guided by other arrangements for its ODA, agreed to at Ministerial level. For example, in countries such as Fiji and Burma, engagement frameworks agreed to by relevant Australian government agencies guide Australian aid.

* Recommendation 3: [Partner government systems guidance] In order to facilitate increased use of partner government systems in delivering aid, and improve the effectiveness of the approaches adopted, AusAID develops policies that address: the benefits of using partner government systems and the lessons learned to date; how decisions to use partner government systems are reached, including thorough assessment of potential development benefits and associated risks; and how the more significant risks of using partner government systems are managed by AusAID.

New guidance on the use of partner government systems which addresses the specific issues identified in the audit is expected to be released by end December 2010.

* Recommendation 4: [Strengthen monitoring and evaluation] In order to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and management of the aid program, AusAID: reports on the quality of monitored aid activities against the country program objectives to which they relate; improves the quality of data captured on how aid is delivered; publishes management responses for all major ODE reviews; and publishes a proposed ODE annual program of evaluations.

This recommendation has been implemented through significant changes to AusAID’s reporting and accountability processes in 2009-10 that strengthened the established performance system. Ongoing reforms will continue through 2010-11:

* + for the 2009-10 financial year, AusAID revised Quality at Implementation and Annual Program Performance Report (APPR) guidance to strengthen quality reporting and assessment of achievements against activity and country level objectives
  + the ODE has published a proposed annual program of evaluations for the 2010-11 financial year; ODE seeks to include all management responses on all evaluations.
* Recommendation 5: [External reporting] In order to strengthen external reporting and help steer agency direction, AusAID develop additional Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) performance indicators to provide a more balanced set of measures that address a broader range of critical aspects of agency performance.

Implementation of this recommendation is completed. Additional performance measures have been introduced into public and internal reporting requirements.

Two new key performance indicators were included in the PBS for 2010-11:

* + "strategies are in place for 100 per cent of country, regional and thematic programs"
  + "90 per cent of activities report in accordance with AusAID's quality systems during implementation."

Reforms have been made to internal reporting measures including the Quarterly Executive Reports (QER) and Quarterly Branch Reviews.

Further key performance indicators will be developed to be progressively introduced into the PBS in subsequent years related to program impact, quality and aid management.

* Recommendation 6: [Transparency of Admin and Departmental costs] To improve transparency and accountability for aid program expenditure, AusAID: obtain clarification from the Department of Finance and Deregulation on its use of administered expenses for departmental purposes; and if the current approach to classifying administered expenses is to be continued, disclose in its annual report details of the program, role and cost of APS and locally engaged staff funded from the administered appropriation, as well as travel, accommodation, IT and other administrative costs paid for from this source.

Implementation of this recommendation is complete.

Greater transparency has been achieved with changes to the administered/ departmental classification framework, which came into effect from 1 July 2010. These changes were made, in agreement with the Department of Finance and Deregulation to recognise the proper classification of AusAID staff costs and administered expenses.

All positions across AusAID have now been reviewed in light of the new framework, with the most significant impact being the transition of the majority of overseas-based staff from administered to departmentally funded positions.

**Question 42**

Written question

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

What cost-analysis and risk assessment is conducted on ODA-eligible Australian aid programs, prior to project implementation?

**Answer**

The Development Effectiveness Steering Committee (DESC) plays a formal role in providing advice on ODA-eligible funding proposals in the budget context. The DESC is an interdepartmental committee chaired by the Director General of AusAID and comprising deputy secretaries from PM&C, DFAT, Treasury and DoFD and the AusAID Deputy Director General responsible for the aid budget. It was established to promote coordination and coherence across all of the Government’s aid efforts. The DESC plays a central role in strengthening the coordination of all Australian ODA expenditures and advises the Government on major ODA strategy. DESC advice is focused on policy relevance, effectiveness, coherence and prioritisation of ODA-related expenditure proposals.

All aid activities over $3 million are required to undertake a series of mandatory appraisals during their design stage to ensure proposed investments achieve value for money for the Government. Cost and risk, together with benefit, are major determinants of value for money. These appraisals consider the costs of the inputs that would logically contribute to required objectives of a program design. AusAID compares these costs with known market rates and considers contributions of other stakeholders (particularly recipient governments) as part of the assessments. A wide range of risks (for example covering implementation, political and environmental aspects) must also be identified and satisfactory treatment actions indicated. The appraisals are conducted by independent technical experts and AusAID staff. The appraisal process may be shortened for smaller programs but only if risk is low. The design then forms the basis for contracts or agreements with implementing partners and is further scrutinized by AusAID delegates for the adequacy of cost and risk provisions before approval is given.

**Question 43**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

What reviews are conducted and at what intervals to measure the effectiveness of ODA-eligible Australian aid programs?

**Answer**

The effectiveness of Australian aid is monitored both through regular internal AusAID processes, and through reviews and evaluations led by independent organisations and international bodies. The OECD’s Development Assistance Committee conducts peer reviews of each member’s performance in the area of development cooperation once every four years. The last peer review of Australia was published in 2008 and rated Australia’s aid program positively, particularly in relation to its performance management systems.

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) regularly scrutinises aspects of AusAID’s operations through its program of performance audits. In 2009 ANAO reported on AusAID’s management of the expanding Australian aid program. The ANAO is currently conducting a review of AusAID’s support for tertiary education and has foreshadowed an audit of one aspect of the aid program each year.

The Government has also established a panel to conduct an Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness. This review will examine the effectiveness and efficiency of Australian aid, and make recommendations on its structure and delivery.

In addition to AusAID, other government agencies also deliver ODA-eligible Australian aid programs. Excluding Iraq debt relief, the proportion of ODA delivered by other government agencies has averaged 16 percent over the period 2005/06—2008/09; inclusive of Iraq debt relief this figure is 22.5 percent. The country strategy policy for Australian aid emphasises analytical judgement and whole of government consensus on the best use of Australian ODA in a given country or region.

AusAID’s Performance Management and Evaluation policy sets out the minimum expectations for measuring performance of ODA provided by AusAID. AusAID assesses effectiveness at the country program level and at the individual aid activity level.

* + At the activity level: the quality of individual aid activities with a value in excess of $3 million or otherwise considered significant or sensitive is assessed annually against a number of quality principles (achievement of objectives, efficiency, implementation progress, sustainability). Aid activities are also subject to independent evaluations, at least every four years and at completion of the activity.
  + At the country program level: reports are produced annually, assessing program performance in the past year and rating progress against objectives outlined in the Country Strategy, and specifying ongoing management action for effective and efficient delivery of the aid program.

AusAID’s performance system helps drive a strong focus on quality and results in the aid program and has been acknowledged as being robust and leading practice by the ANAO and OECD’s Development Assistance Committee.

The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) also plays an important role in monitoring the quality and impact of the Australian aid program. ODE produces an Annual Review of Development Effectiveness, which is tabled in Parliament. ODE conducts evaluations or reviews of major country programs when a new strategy is to be developed. ODE also undertakes cross-cutting reviews and evaluations, usually led by senior, internationally recognised figures. Programs or sectors are selected for evaluation based on criteria such as relevance to policy or budget priorities and whole of government interest. Evaluations in recent years have included AusAID’s support to: service delivery in fragile states, civil society engagement, law and justice. ODE publishes its forward program for evaluations, as well as completed evaluation reports, on its website.

1. Defence-delivered ODA includes only the additional costs of military personnel delivering humanitarian aid or performing development services, not their regular salaries and expenses. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)