**Question 1**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Macedonia

Hansard, p. 7

**Senator Trood asked: asked:**

Can the Department provide a list of countries that recognise the name Macedonians prefer?

**Answer**

There is no independently verifiable list of countries that have recognised the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by its preferred name (‘Republic of Macedonia’).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has identified 130 countries as having done so (see below).

The UN and the EU, as international organisations, use ‘the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’.

|  | **Country** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Afghanistan |
| 2. | Albania |
| 3. | Algeria |
| 4. | Andorra |
| 5. | Angola |
| 6. | Antigua and Barbuda |
| 7. | Argentina |
| 8. | Azerbaijan |
| 9. | Bahrain |
| 10. | Bangladesh |
| 11. | Belarus |
| 12. | Belize |
| 13. | Benin |
| 14. | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 15. | Botswana |
| 16. | Brazil |
| 17. | Brunei Darussalam |
| 18. | Bulgaria |
| 19. | Burkina Faso |
| 20. | Burma |
| 21. | Burundi |
| 22. | Cambodia |
| 23. | Cameroon |
| 24. | Canada |
| 25. | Cape Verde |
| 30. | Central African Republic |
| 31. | Chad |
| 32. | Chile |
| 33. | People’s Republic of China |
| 34. | Colombia |
| 35. | Comoros |
| 36. | Congo |
| 37. | Costa Rica |
| 38. | Cote d’Ivoire |
| 39. | Croatia |
| 40. | Cuba |
| 41. | Democratic People’s Republic of Korea |
| 42. | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| 43. | Djibouti |
| 44. | Dominica |
| 45. | Dominican Republic |
| 46. | Ecuador |
| 47. | El Salvador |
| 48. | Equatorial Guinea |
| 49. | Eritrea |
| 50. | Ethiopia |
| 51. | Fiji |
| 52. | Gabon |
| 53. | Gambia |
| 54. | Guatemala |
| 55. | Guinea |
| 56. | Guinea-Bissau |
| 57. | Haiti |
| 58. | Honduras |
| 59. | India |
| 60. | Indonesia |
| 61. | Iraq |
| 62. | Israel |
| 63. | Jamaica |
| 64. | Jordan |
| 65. | Kazakhstan |
| 66. | Kenya |
| 67. | Kosovo |
| 68. | Kuwait |
| 69. | Kyrgyzstan |
| 70 | Laos |
| 71. | Lesotho |
| 72. | Libya |
| 73. | Madagascar |
| 74. | Malawi |
| 75. | Malaysia |
| 76. | Maldives |
| 77. | Marshall Islands |
| 78. | Mauritania |
| 79. | Mauritius |
| 80. | Mexico |
| 81. | Micronesia |
| 82. | Moldova |
| 83. | Montenegro |
| 84. | Morocco |
| 85. | Mozambique |
| 86. | Nauru |
| 87. | Nepal |
| 88. | Nicaragua |
| 89. | Niger |
| 90. | Nigeria |
| 91. | Oman |
| 92. | Pakistan |
| 93. | Panama |
| 94. | Paraguay |
| 95. | Peru |
| 96. | Poland |
| 97. | Qatar |
| 98. | Romania |
| 99. | Russian Federation |
| 100. | Rwanda |
| 101. | Saint Lucia |
| 102. | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| 103. | Samoa |
| 104. | Sao Tome and Principe |
| 105. | Senegal |
| 106. | Serbia |
| 107. | Seychelles |
| 108. | Sierra Leone |
| 109. | Singapore |
| 110. | Slovenia |
| 111. | Somalia |
| 112. | Sri Lanka |
| 113. | Surinam |
| 114. | Swaziland |
| 115. | Syria |
| 116. | Tanzania |
| 117. | Tajikistan |
| 118. | Thailand |
| 119. | Togo |
| 120. | Turkey |
| 121. | Turkmenistan |
| 122. | Uganda |
| 123. | Ukraine |
| 124. | United Arab Emirates |
| 125. | United States of America |
| 126. | Uzbekistan |
| 127. | Vanuatu |
| 128. | Venezuela |
| 129. | Viet Nam |
| 130. | Yemen |

**Question 2**

Portfolio Overview

Topic: Ambassador title

Hansard, p. 10

**Senator Brown asked:**

Has anyone, apart from Mr Alan Oxley, used the title Ambassador, while not actually engaged as an Australian Ambassador?

**Answer**

The Department cannot provide an accurate answer to this question as it does not keep relevant data.

**Question 3**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Mr Alan Oxley

Hansard, p. 10

**Senator Brown asked:**

A. How many times has Mr Oxley been in contact with the Australian Embassy in Beijing in the past five years?

B. Has Mr Oxley made any representations on behalf of the Mining interests he represents in Mongolia in the past five years?

**Answer**

A. As far as we have been able to ascertain, in the past five years Mr Oxley has been in contact with the Australian Embassy in Beijing on one occasion. On 5 March 2007, Counsellor (Economic), Second Secretary (Economic) and Counsellor (Agriculture) met Mr Oxley to discuss agricultural issues in China.

A search of relevant records has revealed no record of any other contact with the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

We note that accreditation for Mongolia was transferred from the Australian Embassy in Beijing to the Australian Embassy in Seoul in August 2008. The Australian Embassy in Seoul has advised that it has had no contact with Mr Oxley since August 2008.

B. We have found no record of Mr Oxley having made any representations in relation to Mongolia (or on behalf of any mining interests in Mongolia) to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, or to the Australian Embassies in either Beijing or Seoul.

**Question 4**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Staffing

Hansard, pp. 17 and 18

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What is the number of vacant positions in the Department as on 18 October?

B. What are the expected increases this financial year in LE staff?

**Answer**

A. As at 30 September 2010, budget related positions in Canberra were filled to 99.3% which equates to 7.5 fulltime equivalent (FTE) vacant positions.

B. With planned opening of new posts, we expect to have an additional 16 new positions to fill and a further 26 recruitments to existing vacancies. The expected total increase in numbers of LE staff will therefore be 42 by the end of 2010-11.

**Question 5**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Ministerial office staff

Hansard, pp. 21 & 22

**Senator Trood asked:**

What are the comparative figures of staff between Mr Rudd’s and Dr Emerson’s offices and the previous occupants of those two offices?

**Answer**

Mr Rudd is entitled to 13 personal staff (two of which are his entitlement as a former Prime Minister) and two Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) (one from DFAT and one from AusAID).

Dr Emerson is entitled to 10 personal staff and two DLOs (one from DFAT and one from Austrade).

Mr Rudd and Dr Emerson are still finalising staffing arrangements in their offices within the terms of these entitlements.

Mr Smith had 10 personal staff and three DLOs (two from DFAT and one from AusAID) at the time he ceased to be Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr Crean had 10 personal staff and two DLOs (one from DFAT and one from Austrade) at the time he ceased to be Minister for Trade.

**Question 6**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Unity Resources Group (URG)

Hansard, pp. 28, 34 & 35

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Were there other tenders for the security contract for our Embassy in Baghdad, in addition to the tender from the Unity Resources Group (URG)?

B. How many people are employed under the contract with URG, and what are their nationality/citizenship status?

C. Can the department give assurance that staff performing security duties under URG's contract can be relied upon?

D. What obligations does URG have under the current contract in relation to workplace health and safety arrangements, and are those obligations being met?

**Answer**

A. The Department of Defence’s Request for Tender (RFT) No. JLC09-005 was a confined tender released to seven companies on 2 October 2009 in accordance with the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines 2005* and Defence’s approved acquisition strategy.

B. Consistent with the practice of successive governments, DFAT does not comment on operational security matters, including details of security staff employed overseas.

C. The contract, which DFAT signed with URG on 3 November 2010, requires URG to provide suitably qualified staff in accordance with contract specifications. All URG contract staff have to meet rigorous selection processes which include police checks, reviews of prior military service and the evaluation of personal references to establish applicants’ bona fides. Additionally, contractors occupying Close Personal Protection or supervisory positions, all of whom are Australian nationals, are vetted by DFAT. Section 9.9 of the contract compels URG to ensure all personnel are aware of Commonwealth security requirements and comply with these. The contract also imposes regular reporting (Section 9.14) and training (Annex B) obligations on URG. The Department retains absolute discretion to require URG to terminate an employee’s services for the breach of any obligations imposed under the contract.

D. Section 10.6 of the contract obligates the contractor to conform to any occupational health and safety statutory requirements applicable to the services provided under the contract, whether in Australia or overseas. Specifically, Section 10.6 states, “Where no such laws or regulations exist, the contractor agrees to institute occupational health and safety procedures set out in the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991* as if the contractor were subject to that Act in Iraq”. We have a quality-assurance program in place to monitor regularly the operation of the contract to ensure URG meets its obligations.

**Question 7**

Portfolio overview

Topic: China: Human rights

Hansard, p. 42

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Could the Department provide the list of individual human rights cases discussed with the Chinese Government at the human rights dialogue session in March 2010?

**Answer**

1. Lobsang Gyaltsen
2. Loyak
3. Tenzin Phuntsok
4. Kangtsuk
5. Penkyi
6. Dhondup Wangchen
7. Wangdue
8. Gao Zhisheng
9. Liu Xiaobo
10. Zhao Shiying (also known as Zhao Dadong)
11. Sun Xiaodi

**Question 8**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Mr Liu Xiaobo

Hansard, p. 43

**Senator Trood asked:**

How many times has the Department asked for Mr Liu Xiaobo to be released?

**Answer**

Four times. Up to 18 October 2010 when the question was asked, the Government had asked for Dr Liu to be released three times. Since 18 October, the Government has asked one further time.

**Question 9**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Australia and China Consular talks

Hansard, p. 44

**Senator Trood asked:**

What issues are on the agenda for the next consular talks between Australia and China?

**Answer**

The 2010 Australia-China Consular Consultations were held on 28-29 October 2010. The agenda for the consultations covered the implementation of the Australia-China Consular Agreement in the following areas:

* access by Australian consular officials to Chinese trials (including the Stern Hu case);
* cases where either China or Australia has not met the deadline for notification of the other country’s consular officials where nationals of the other country have been detained;
* the application of Australia’s Privacy Act in relation to Australia’s obligations under the Consular Agreement;
* the possibility of locally engaged staff providing notarial services in Australian diplomatic missions in China.

Other items on the agenda included:

* issues affecting the welfare of individuals currently in detention;
* the possibility of Australian consular officials gaining consular access to dual Australian-Chinese nationals who may be detained in China, but who have used Chinese passports to enter China;
* the status of the bilateral Prisoner Transfer Treaty;
* issues affecting Chinese students in Australia;
* the inclusion of Macau in Hong Kong’s consular district; and
* a range of visa issues including visas for diplomatic staff and recent changes to Australia’s visa regulations.

**Question 10**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Human rights in Indonesia

Hansard, p. 58

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Does Australia have a view on the 70 political activists who were imprisoned in Maluku, Ambon, Indonesia, since 2007, and have we made representations at any level on the incarceration of these pro-democracy activists? What are the specific dates and times of these representations?

**Answer**

Embassy officials in Jakarta engage regularly on human rights issues with government and civil society representatives, including human rights groups.

On 28 May 2009, Embassy officials in Jakarta made representations to the Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs on the conviction of pro-separatist flag-raisers in Maluku and the Papuan Provinces. On 5 November 2010, Embassy officials made further representations to the Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs on the conviction of the flag-raisers in 2007 and the alleged serious misconduct by members of Detachment 88 in Maluku in 2010. Officials have also raised concerns about the Ambon cases during broader discussions with relevant Indonesian authorities.

**Question 11**

Portfolio overview

Topic: ‘Detachment 88’

Hansard, p. 59

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Would the Australian government consider suspending support for Detachment 88 of the Indonesian Police? Could the Department provide a detailed breakdown of what exactly the Australian Government does in aid, materiel, funds and direct training activities across all portfolios in support of this unit in particular?

**Answer**

Please refer to question number 62 directed to the Australian Federal Police by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

**Question 12**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Sari Club site in Bali

Hansard, p. 60

**Senator Kroger asked:**

Has the government given any consideration to help financially support the peace garden proposed for the Sari Club site in Bali, or in some way advance it?

**Answer**

The Australian Government has financially assisted the Bali Peace Park Association through the granting of tax deductibility status for a period of two years to help its fundraising efforts.

The Consulate-General in Bali has provided on-the-ground support to the Bali Peace Park Association. This has included continuing assistance to gain access to the appropriate officials in Bali and advocacy in support of appropriate use of the site.

**Question 13**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Mr Rudd’s visit to Pakistan

Hansard, pp. 73 and 74

**Senator Abetz asked:**

A. What changes were made at the camp for displaced people in Pakistan to facilitate Mr Rudd’s recent visit there?

B. How many world leaders had already visited this camp prior to Mr Rudd’s visit?

**Answer**

A. Mr Rudd visited Camp Cockatoo on 16 September 2010 during his visit to Southern Punjab, Pakistan. Camp Cockatoo was a medical facility and base for the Australian Joint Medical Task Force; it was not a camp for displaced people.

No changes were made to the camp security and patient treatment arrangements to facilitate Mr Rudd’s visit. 216 patients were seen and treated on that day. The camp treated an average of 222 patients each day during that week (13-19 September).

B. No world leaders had visited the camp prior to Mr Rudd’s visit.

**Question 14**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Incoming government brief

Written question

**Senator Fielding asked:**

A. Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called ‘Red Book’)?

B. Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?

C. If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?

D. If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?

E. Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

F. Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the ‘Blue Book’)?

G. Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?

H. If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?

I. If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?

J. Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

**Answer**

A. Yes.

B. No.

C. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not make public the policy advice it provides in confidence to portfolio ministers. The brief in question is classified SECRET AUSTEO.

D. No.

E. No.

F. Yes.

G. No.

H. The brief in question is classified SECRET AUSTEO.

I. No.

J. No.

**Question 15**

Program: 1.1 South and West Asia

Topic: Australia's relationship with India

Written question

**Senator Kroger asked:**

A. During the February estimates we discussed the diplomatic relationship with India following the Indian media coverage of racial tensions in Victoria. Subsequently an email emerging from the Victorian Police Force has been reported in the news. This email allegedly shows an Indian man on top of a train being electrocuted by overhead wires with the comment this "could be a way to "fix" the Indian student "problem"? It has been reported that this has received media attention in India. Is it correct that the Indian Government summoned Australia's High Commissioner in New Delhi to a meeting to express concerns?

B. Could the department please provide information about this meeting, when and where it took place?

C. Are you aware of any further action? What representations have been made to Indian officials in relation to this appalling email?

D. Has a formal apology being made by the Australian Government?

**Answer**

A. Yes.

B. Australia’s High Commissioner in New Delhi, Peter Varghese met the Secretary (East) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi on 9 October 2010.

C. Following the High Commissioner’s meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs released a press statement (available on the MEA website) expressing its serious concern over the incident and its hope that action would be taken against those involved. The statement also acknowledges that the High Commissioner had conveyed his government’s condemnation of the incident.

After his meeting with the MEA the High Commissioner released a statement (available on the New Delhi High Commission’s website) where he condemned the email and attached statements on the incident by the Victorian Police Commissioner, the Victorian Premier and a spokesperson for the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The statement from the Police Commissioner said that he did not condone racism in any form and that the Victorian Police would deal with these matters in the strongest possible way.

The statement from the Premier of Victoria said that:

“racism had no place in Victoria and the State Government had taken strong action to reinforce community tolerance and multiculturalism. Any instance of racism is completely offensive and not what I or our community stands for. I condemn in the strongest possible terms any racist actions taken by any member of the Victorian community. Our Government will continue to take concrete action to crack down on racism. The actions of individuals within Victorian Police should not diminish or deter the thousands of good police officers who are committed to doing a very tough job well and to taking action on racism to make our community more tolerant and respectful.”

The statement further outlined that the Victorian Government had taken a range of actions to address racism and re-affirm the State’s commitment to multiculturalism, including:

- Amending sentencing laws so that judges could take into account hatred for, or prejudice against a particular group when sentencing offenders;  
- Victoria Police establishing the Police Indian Western Reference Group to identify, implement and monitor strategies to engage police and Indian communities to reduce the risk of crime;  
- Establishing a new 24-hour international student care service so that international students could obtain support and assistance around the clock, including referrals and assistance with accommodation, counselling, legal assistance and support services; and  
- Establishing an international student welcome booth at Melbourne Airport and boosting funding for the Indian International Student Advisory Service.

D. A spokesperson for the Foreign Minister stated on 9 October that the emails were outrageous and offensive, had no place whatsoever in Australian society and deserved unqualified condemnation.

On October 29 2010 the Australian High Commission in India issued a media release (available on the New Delhi High Commission’s website) welcoming the strong disciplinary actions taken by the Victorian police. Of the two officers involved in the email, one has been dismissed and the other is on extended sick leave.

**Question 16**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Media monitoring

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office in the 2009-2010 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services?

B. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services?

**Answer**

A. The total cost of media monitoring services ordered by Ministerial Offices in Financial Year 2009-2010 was $87,360

- Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Smith) $63,278  
- Office of the Minister for Trade (Mr Crean) $24,082

The services were provided by Media Monitors Pty Ltd.

B. The total cost of media monitoring services procured by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Financial Year 2009-2010 was $266,086

- Media Monitors Pty Ltd $179,875  
- Associated Australian Press (AAP) $31,019

-   Factiva $55,192

**Question 17**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Social media

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what restrictions have been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place? If not, why not? (for example there may be legitimate reasons for some staff to access these sites for legitimate purposes).

B. Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed (i.e. lunch time?).

C. Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

**Answer**

A. The department does not deny staff the use of online social media, as it recognises the value of internet social networking tools (such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and MySpace) and the opportunities they provide to maintain contact with family and friends. It also recognises the right of staff to use these tools in a private capacity. At the same time, there are clear restrictions placed upon staff and contractors in regard to their responsibilities when they use these media.

APS employees, LES employees and contractors who post text and images on internet social networking tools should be aware that such text and images can be accessed widely. The department considers posting text and images on internet social networking tools (such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and MySpace), and internet chat rooms as public comment for the purposes of section 8.4 of the Department’s Conduct and Ethics Manual (the Manual). DFAT requires all staff to apply the same standards, and exercise the same judgment and caution, when posting text and images via these media as for any other form of public comment. This is to ensure that they do not compromise the reputation of the department or their post. To do so may breach the APS Code of Conduct or a post’s LES Code of Conduct.

Section 7.1of the Manual sets out the departmental guidelines on the appropriate use of official and personal information. Section 7.2 of this Manual sets out guidelines on the appropriate use of departmental IT systems, the internet and e-mail. APS employees, LES employees and contractors must ensure that their use of the internet social networking tools complies with those guidelines, and does not compromise security, commercial interests and privacy, nor disrupt the department’s operations.

B. Yes. We cannot verify actual usage across-the-board.

C. The Department can monitor excessive internet usage. Where excessive usage is identified details are captured and referred to the Department’s Conduct and Ethics Unit for investigation. This is an effective method for monitoring the department’s internet resources and in detecting any misuse.

**Question 18**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Ministerial submissions

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began?

B. Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes?

C. How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back?

D. What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last?

E. Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent?

**Answer**

A. Yes.

B. Yes.

C. 13.

D. The date of the earliest was 18 July 2010. The date of the last was 19 July 2010.

E. No. Subject to the caretaker conventions, a number of submissions were provided to the Minister and were dealt with during the caretaker period.

**Question 19**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Australia's bilateral relationship with India

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How does the Department assess the state of our bilateral relationship with India?

B. Does the interagency taskforce set up to consider ways to respond to the difficulties in Australia’s relations with India, still meet?

C. When was the last meeting of the task force?

D. How frequently has it met in 2010?

E. What recommendations has the task force made? Have they been implemented?

**Answer**

1. Australia’s relationship with India is strong.

Trade with India has grown considerably since 2007 and is now our third largest export market. Merchandise exports have grown by over 20 per cent per annum from A$9 billion in 2007 to A$14.5 billion in 2009. Services trade has grown by over 35 per cent per annum in the same period from A$2 billion to A$3.7 billion.

There have been 14 Indian Ministerial visits to Australia since 2008. In the same period there has been an Australian Prime Ministerial and 13 Ministerial visits to India.

1. There are a number of interagency taskforces which work on Australia’s relationship with India. These include:
2. A whole of government Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC), the India Policy Working Group, led by DFAT meets at six-monthly intervals to discuss work being carried out on the Australia-Indian bilateral relationship.
3. A Victoria-Commonwealth Taskforce on International Students and Community Welfare was established in January 2010 and meets fortnightly by telephone to improve coordination and responses on Indian student issues in Victoria.
4. DFAT has also established an Interdepartmental Committee on Australia’s image in India.
5. Other meetings between state and commonwealth departments occur on an ad hoc basis as needs arise.

In addition, a whole-of-government Taskforce on Crimes against International Students was established by the Prime Minister in June 2009 to coordinate the Government’s efforts to address matters affecting the safety of international students in Australia in collaboration with State/Territory Governments.

1. The India Policy Working Group last met at DFAT on 29 October 2010.

The Victoria-Commonwealth Taskforce on International Students and Community Welfare last met on 11 November 2010.

The last Interdepartmental Committee meeting on Australia’s image in India was on 9 September 2010.

The last meeting of the Taskforce on Crimes against International Students was on 20 July 2009.

1. The India Policy Working Group has met twice in 2010.

The Victoria-Commonwealth Taskforce on International Students and Community Welfare meets fortnightly.

The Interdepartmental Committee meeting on Australia’s image in India has met six times in 2010.

The Taskforce on Crimes against International Students has not met in 2010.

1. The Task Force on Crimes against International Students played an important role in identifying issues relevant to the safety and welfare of Indian Students in Australia and recommended that these matters be addressed through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The COAG International Students Strategy for Australia was launched in October 2010. Measures taken as part of the Strategy include:

1. All education institutions will be required to have campus safety action plans in place, developed in consultation with local police
2. The ‘Study in Australia’ website has been updated and the portal administered by Austrade is now available in English and eleven foreign languages to provide students with an authoritative and up-to-date source of information on safety, support services, and tenancy and employment rights and responsibilities
3. Australian Police Commissioners have agreed to share information on best practice safety initiatives on international students, including through the Australian and New Zealand Policing Advisory Group.

**Question 20**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Election commitments

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Were any of the government’s election promises in your portfolio costed before the election was called by the department or Treasury or Finance? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.

B. Had your department or any agency in your portfolio provided information on any of the government’s election promises in your portfolio to the Government before the election was called? Was any work done on formulating any of the Government’s election commitments? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.

C. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio?

D. Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?

E. Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments? How much? What will happen to the funding now?

F. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2010 election within the portfolio? Please provide a list.

G. Has implementation of the 2010 election commitments within the portfolio commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?

H. Will additional departmental resources be required to implement 2010 election commitments within your portfolio? If yes, provide details. If no, why not? If unable to provide an answer please explain why.

I. How will the election commitments in your portfolio be offset? Will your portfolio be required to offset the new spending in your portfolio?

**Answer**

A. No.

B. No.

C. With the exception of the commitment listed at E below, implementation of all other 2007 election commitments is on track or has been fully achieved.

D. None.

E. The 2007 election commitment to ‘re-establish an Austrade Business Board’ has not been implemented. No additional resources were required to implement this commitment.

F. There were three 2010 election commitments relevant to the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio: an increase in passport fees; a portfolio savings measure ($45.5 million over three years); and confirmation during the election campaign that annual funding of $150 million would be provided for the ongoing EMDG scheme.

Work is currently underway to increase the passport fees from 1 January 2011. The portfolio is currently considering how the savings, which take effect from the 2011-12 financial year, should be delivered. The EMDG is currently receiving grant applications.

G. See F above.

H. No.

I. Not applicable.

**Question 21**

Portfolio overview

Topic: 2010 election

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the campaign?

B. Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers?

C. Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief (‘Red Book’)? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?

D. Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief (‘Blue Book’)? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?

**Answer**

A. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other portfolio agencies engaged in routine work during the 2010 election campaign, within the parameters of the caretaker conventions.

B. Yes, consistent with the caretaker conventions.

C. No. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not make public the policy advice it provides in confidence to portfolio ministers. The brief in question is classified SECRET AUSTEO.

D. No. The brief in question is classified SECRET AUSTEO.

**Question 22**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Efficiency dividend

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Has your portfolio started implementing the Government’s savings election commitment of a maintaining the annual efficiency dividend on departmental expenses at 1.25 per cent? If not, why not? If yes, give details.

B. Will any agencies in your portfolio be seeking an exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend?

C. How do you think you will implement it? Give examples of the types of cuts you will make (i.e. no more pot plants in departmental buildings).

D. Will there be cuts to staff? If yes, give details.

**Answer**

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

A. No. The Department is currently considering how this commitment, commencing in 2011-12, should be delivered.

B. No.

C. See A.

D. No such cuts are envisaged at this stage.

***Austrade***

A. Austrade will assess how it will meet the additional efficiency dividend in the context of finalising its internal budget for 2011-12.

B. No.

C. Refer to answer at A.

D. No.

***AusAID***

1. AusAID will continue to meet the existing efficiency dividend requirement of 1.25 per cent.
2. AusAID is not seeking an exemption.
3. AusAID has identified efficiencies in a range of expenditure types, including reducing stationary supplies, reducing the extent of business class travel, reducing training costs through providing online training for overseas staff and not filling as many new positions as was previously planned.
4. No cuts to staff numbers will occur to implement the efficiency dividend.

***Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)***

A. Nil response.

B. Nil response.

C. Nil response.

D. Nil response.

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A. No. The additional 0.25 per cent will be incorporated when confirmed. Informal consideration has been given to possible impacts.

B. No.

C. The additional 0.25 per cent dividend will be implemented through a combination of targeted (e.g. doing work in-house which might otherwise have been outsourced) and more general savings.

D. No cuts to staff are envisaged at this stage.

**Question 23**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Staffing levels

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies?

B. What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?

C. What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers?

D. How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies on 10 May 2010?

E. How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies as of today?

F. What is the breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band?

G. What is the gender breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?

H. What is the breakdown by location for each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?

I. What is the breakdown by each level of ongoing staff and non ongoing staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?

J. What has been the general staffing trend in your department and portfolio agencies since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y).

K. What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the budgetary implications? In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?

L. Are there expected changes to current staffing levels over the next 12 months? If yes, provide details including a breakdown of each level staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band) detailing the changes. Will this be different to what was reported in the 2010-11 Budget?

M. Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings? What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this? Will staff reductions be used to achieve the Government’s election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend?

N. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?

O. How many permanent staff recruited since Budget Estimates 2010? What level are these staff? Where is their location?

P. Since Budget Estimates 2010, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Q. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts since Budget Estimate s2010? If so, where and at what level?

R. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

S. If your Department/agency has been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, savings commitments included reducing program funding, rationalising grants etc how will these impact the department and staffing) .

T. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

**Answer**

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

A. Total employee benefits for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for 2009-2010 as reported in the 2009-2010 annual report (p.299), were $390,209,000.

B. Actual renumeration for SES officers located in Australia is set out in Note 14 (p. 314) of DFAT’s 2009-2010 Annual Report. Given the ranges of and varying conditions at overseas posts, a breakdown for SES located overseas would be a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider that the additional work can be justified.

C. On the basis of headcount:

As at 30 September 2010, there were 220 SES officers in DFAT. Consistent with previous advice, this includes the Secretary and the Director-General of the Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (DG ASNO).

As at 30 September 2010, there were 2206 Non-SES Australia-based officers in DFAT.

D. The nearest staffing data available for SES to 10 May 2010 is 11 May 2010. On 11 May 2010, there were 219 SES in DFAT, including the Secretary and DG ASNO.

E. As at 30 September 2010, there were 220 SES in DFAT, including the Secretary and the DG ASNO.

F. As at 30 September 2010, the breakdown of staff by level was as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Number** |
| BB1/2 | 848 |
| APS6/EL1 | 990 |
| EL2 | 368 |
| SES | 220 |
| Total | 2426 |

G. As at 30 September 2010, the gender breakdown of staff was as follows:

| **Level** | **Female** | **Male** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BB1/2 | 594 | 254 | 848 |
| APS6/EL1 | 481 | 509 | 990 |
| EL2 | 144 | 224 | 368 |
| SES Band 1 | 44 | 104 | 148 |
| SES Band 2 | 11 | 39 | 50 |
| SES Band 3 | 2 | 18 | 20 |
| DG ASNO |  | 1 | 1 |
| Secretary |  | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 1276 | 1150 | 2426 |

H. As at 30 September 2010, the breakdown of staff by level and location was as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Canberra** | **Overseas1** | **State Offices** | **Total** |
| BB1/2 | 458 | 131 | 259 | 848 |
| APS6/EL1 | 714 | 245 | 31 | 990 |
| EL2 | 241 | 117 | 10 | 368 |
| SES Band 1 | 91 | 56 | 1 | 148 |
| SES Band 2 | 25 | 24 | 1 | 50 |
| SES Band 3 | 8 | 12 |  | 20 |
| DG ASNO | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Grand Total | 1539 | 585 | 302 | 2426 |

1. This includes staff on language training and short term missions.

1. As at 30 September 2010, the breakdown of staff by level and type of employment was as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Non-Ongoing** | **Ongoing** | **Total** |
| BB1/2 | 89 | 759 | 848 |
| APS6/EL1 | 11 | 979 | 990 |
| EL2 | 9 | 359 | 368 |
| SES Band 1 | 4 | 144 | 148 |
| SES Band 2 | 2 | 48 | 50 |
| SES Band 3 | 2 | 18 | 20 |
| DG ASNO |  | 1 | 1 |
| Secretary |  | 1 | 1 |
| Grand Total | 117 | 2309 | 2426 |

J. Since 2007-08, DFAT’s average staffing level (ASL), which includes Australia-based and Locally Engaged Staff has increased:

* in 2007-08, the average staffing level was 3,458
* in 2010-11, it is forecast to be 3,622
* this represents an increase of 5 per cent, or 164 ASL, over 2007-08 levels. The increases are a result of various factors, including increases in passport issue rates, conversion of contractors into Australia Public Service personnel and new budget decisions (these Budget decisions can be found in the Portfolio Budget Statements and Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements for each year.)

K. Changes in staffing levels since budget estimates remain in line with the forecast reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010-11.

L. The forecast of staffing levels reported in the 2010-2011 Portfolio Budget Statements remains current.

M. No, the department’s ASL is forecast to increase.

N. Three voluntary redundancies were offered between 1 July and 30 September 2010. A voluntary redundancy is offered to an employee if the duties performed by the employee are no longer necessary for the efficient and economical working of the department. Any future offers of voluntary redundancies will be made on this basis.

O. Between 1 July and 30 September 2010, recruitment numbers for ongoing staff were as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Canberra** | **State Offices** | **Total** |
| BB1/BB2 | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| APS6/EL1 | 48 | 1 | 49 |
| EL2 | 2 |  | 2 |
| SES | 2 |  | 2 |
| Total | 65 | 6 | 71 |

P. Between 1 July 2010 and 30 September 2010 there have been 46 new non-ongoing contracts comprising 9 new hires and 37 re-hires. The average length of a non-ongoing contract is six months.

Q. The efficiency dividend was introduced more than 15 years ago and it is not possible to identify specific positions or staff reductions directly associated with it over that time.

R. There are no current plans for net staff reduction.

S. A portfolio savings commitment ($45.5 million over three years) was announced in the 2010 election. The savings are due to commence in 2011-12 and the portfolio is currently considering how they should be delivered.

T. As part of an APS-wide initiative, the department has established an Information and Communications Technology Apprenticeship Program with two apprentices commencing in Feb 2011. Aside from this, we do not envisage any major changes to current graduate recruitment or cadetship programs.

***Austrade***

A. Austrade employee benefits expenses for 2009 -10 as shown in the Annual Report were $110.4m.

B. Remuneration for SES officers was $15.9m and non-SES staff was $94.5m.

C. As at 30 September 2010 there were 61 SES and 500 non-SES APS staff in Austrade. There were also 545 Overseas Engaged Employees, making a total of 1106 staff.

D. On 10 May 2010, 60 SES were employed by Austrade.

E. As at 30 September 2010, 61 SES were employed by Austrade.

F. APS staffing breakdown by level at 30 September 2010:



G. At 30 September 2010 the gender breakdown of staff by APS level was:



H. At 30 September 2010 the breakdown of staff by location and APS level was as set out below:



I. At 30 September 2010 the breakdown of staff by employment type by APS level was as set out below:



J. Since 2007-08, Austrade’s average staffing level (ASL), which includes APS and Locally Engaged Employees, has increased by 2.8 per cent or 29 ASL. In 2007-08, the average staffing level was 1,032, and in in 2010-11, it is forecast to be 1,061.Transfers to Austrade of 53 investment staff from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and 48 international education marketing staff from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations were partially offset by reduced staffing levels in other areas.

K. Since 3 June 2010 any changes have been in line with the forecast set out in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010-11, including 10 staff involved in the transfer of the education marketing function to Austrade from 1 July 2010.

L. The forecast of staffing levels reported in the 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements remains current. An internal review of the administrative and operational arrangements and priorities of Austrade began in June 2010 and is still to be completed.

M. No.

N. No.

O. Between 3 June and 30 September 2010, 25 ongoing staff were recruited as indicated in the table below:



Of the 25 staff who joined Austrade, 10 did so as a result of the transfer of the education marketing function to Austrade and the remainder were filling existing positions.

P. 10 non-ongoing APS employees commenced between 3 June and 30 September 2010, with an average contract length of 9.8 months.

Q. No.

R. No. An internal review of the administrative and operational arrangements and priorities of Austrade began in June 2010 and is still to be completed.

S. Austrade will be required to contribute to the pre-election savings measure identified in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook as *“Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio–efficiencies–Various agencies–$45.5 million over three years”*. An internal review of the administrative and operational arrangements and priorities of Austrade began in June 2010 and is still to be completed. The outcomes of the internal review will determine how the savings will be achieved in Austrade.

T. Austrade does not currently have a graduate recruitment/cadetship program. It is currently considering a future graduate program, details of which are still to be finalised. Austrade has an indigenous cadetship program which employs one cadet and no changes are planned to this program.

***AusAID***

A. Total employee benefits for the 2009-10 financial year were $86,551,000.

B. $5,179,000 of the total wage and salary expenditure was attributable to SES employees and $60,920,000 to non-SES employees.

C. AusAID currently has 957 non-SES APS employees and 53 SES employees.

D. As of 10 May 2010 AusAID employed 53 SES employees, 7 of whom were on extended absence from duty.

E. As of 31 October 2010 AusAID employed 53 SES employees, 8 of whom were on extended absence from duty.

F. The breakdown of staff numbers in AusAID as at 31 October 2010 by level is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Graduate APS | 19 |
| APS2 | 2 |
| APS3 | 7 |
| APS4 | 44 |
| APS5 | 92 |
| APS6 | 229 |
| Executive Level 1 | 392 |
| Executive Level 2 | 172 |
| SES Band 1 | 44 |
| SES Band 2 | 9 |
| Director General (Principal Executive Officer) | 1 |

G. The gender breakdown of staff numbers by level is:

|  | **Male** | **Female** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Graduate APS | 7 | 12 |
| APS2 | 1 | 1 |
| APS3 | 1 | 6 |
| APS4 | 15 | 29 |
| APS5 | 18 | 74 |
| APS6 | 73 | 156 |
| Executive Level 1 | 146 | 246 |
| Executive Level 2 | 84 | 88 |
| SES Band 1 | 29 | 15 |
| SES Band 2 | 7 | 2 |
| Director General  (Principal Executive Officer) | 1 |  |

H. AusAID’s Australia-based APS workforce of 811 works exclusively out of Canberra. As of 31 October 2010 there were 200 APS employees working overseas at the following locations:

|  | **APS5** | **APS6** | **Exec 1** | **Exec 2** | **SES 1** | **SES 2** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Accra |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Addis Ababa |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Apia |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Baghdad |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Bangkok |  |  | 2 |  | 1 |  | 3 |
| Beijing |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 2 |
| Colombo |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 3 |
| Dhaka |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Dili |  | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |  | 6 |
| Geneva |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Hanoi |  |  | 2 | 1 |  |  | 3 |
| Harare |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Honiara |  | 5 | 13 | 6 | 1 |  | 25 |
| Islamabad |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Jakarta |  | 8 | 19 | 9 | 2 |  | 38 |
| Manila |  |  | 4 | 3 | 1 |  | 8 |
| Nairobi |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 2 |
| Nauru |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| New Delhi |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| New York |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 2 |
| Nuku’alofa |  |  | 2 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Paris |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Phnom Penh |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 3 |
| Port Moresby | 1 | 15 | 18 | 9 | 1 |  | 44 |
| Port of Spain |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Port Vila |  |  | 3 | 2 |  |  | 5 |
| Pretoria |  |  | 5 | 1 |  |  | 6 |
| Rangoon |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Santiago |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Seychelles |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Singapore |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Suva |  | 1 | 7 | 3 | 1 |  | 12 |
| Tarawa |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Vientiane |  | 2 | 1 |  |  |  | 3 |
| Washington |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| Afghanistan |  | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 |  | 9 |
| TOTAL | 1 | 42 | 101 | 45 | 9 | 2 | 200 |

I. The breakdown of current AusAID staffing numbers by ongoing and non-ongoing status is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Ongoing** | **Non-ongoing** |
| Graduate APS | 19 |  |
| APS2 | 1 | 1 |
| APS3 | 1 | 6 |
| APS4 | 30 | 14 |
| APS5 | 78 | 14 |
| APS6 | 220 | 9 |
| Executive Level 1 | 383 | 9 |
| Executive Level 2 | 155 | 17 |
| SES Band 1 | 40 | 4 |
| SES Band 2 | 8 | 1 |
| Director General (Principal Executive Officer) | 1 |  |

J. There has been an upwards trend in overall staffing numbers in AusAID over the past three financial years due to the expanding development program. Over this period of time numbers have increased from 723 at 30 June 2007 to 1,004 at 30 June 2010, or approximately 10% per annum.

K. Due to the expanding development program, there has been an overall increase of 7 in staffing levels from Budget Estimates 2010 to 31 October 2010.

L. It is expected that staffing numbers will continue to increase over the next 12 months in line with the numbers indicated in the Budget papers.  It is anticipated that a further 6 SES positions will be filled while growth in non-SES positions will be fairly evenly spread across the APS5 – Executive Level 2 classifications.

M. AusAID is not anticipating any staffing reductions.

N. No voluntary or involuntary redundancies have been offered to staff.

O. 57 permanent staff have been recruited to positions in Canberra since Budget Estimates 2010 at the following levels:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APS4 | 7 |
| APS5 | 9 |
| APS6 | 18 |
| Executive Level 1 | 15 |
| Executive Level 2 | 8 |
| SES Band 1 | 1 |

P. 41 employees have been engaged on a temporary basis since Budget Estimates 2010. The average length of employment has been approximately 4 months.

Q. Staffing numbers have not been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend or other budget cuts.

R. There are no plans to reduce staff numbers in AusAID.

S. Not applicable

T. No changes are planned to AusAID’s graduate recruitment.

***Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)***

1. EFIC’s total Staff Costs for 2009-2010 as published in the 2010 Annual Report was $12.57 million.
2. The breakdown is $4.6 million for SES equivalent and $8 million for non-SES equivalent.
3. EFIC’s staffing levels for 2009-2010 included 18 SES equivalent and 70 non-SES equivalent officers.
4. EFIC employed 18 SES equivalent officers on 10 May 2010.
5. EFIC employs 18 SES equivalent officers as of 6 November 2010.
6. EFIC does not use the APS categories of employment.
7. The gender breakdown by SES equivalent officers is 5 female and 13 male and non-SES equivalent officers is 38 female and 32 male.
8. EFIC’s staff are all Sydney based.
9. We have no contractors at the SES equivalent officer level. For non SES equivalent officer level we have 4 contractors covering maternity leave positions.
10. The general staffing trend since the 2007 election has been an increase in 6 SES equivalent officers and 12 non SES equivalent officers reflecting the growth in the business.
11. Since Budget Estimates 27 May 2010 there has been 2 additional staff–one a 6 month graduate placement and the other a new middle management position due to a growth in the business. EFIC is a self-funded statutory corporation and therefore there are no budgetary implications.
12. There may be an increase in staffing levels over the next 12 months, due to business requirements. This might include 0 SES equivalent staff and 3 or 4 non-SES equivalent staff. EFIC employment figures are not included in the 2010-11 Budget. *[DFAT to confirm]*
13. No.
14. No.
15. Since Budget Estimates 27 May 2010 there have been 2 staff recruited: 0 SES equivalent officers and 2 non SES equivalent officers. EFIC staff are all Sydney based.
16. Since Budget Estimates 27 May 2010, 1 employee has been employed on a 6 month contract.
17. No.
18. No.
19. N/A.
20. EFIC is exploring the option of sharing cadets with other agencies within the Portfolio to support the indigenous reconciliation work within the portfolio.

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A. ACIAR staffing expenses for 2009-2010 as reported in the Annual Report 2009-10, were $6.229 million

B.Remuneration for SES was $185,206 and non-SES $6.044 million.

C.As at 3 November 2010 there was 1 SES officer in ACIAR and 50 non-SES Australia- based officers.

D.On 10 May 2010 there was 1 SES officer in ACIAR.

E.As at 3 November there was 1 SES officer in ACIAR.

F to I.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACIAR band** | **APS classification** | **Employees by classification** | **Ongoing/ non-ongoing** | **Male/ female** | **Location** |
|  | SES | SES Band 1 | 1/0 | 0/1 | Canberra |
| 4 | EL2 (RPM) | 11 | 0/11 | 10/1 | Canberra |
| 3 | EL2 | 2 | 2/0 | 1/1 | Canberra |
| 3 | EL1 | 6 | 6/0 | 2/4 | Canberra |
| 2 | APS6 | 5 | 4/1 | 0/5 | Canberra |
| 2 | APS5 | 6 | 6/0 | 2/4 | Canberra |
| 2 | APS4 | 14 | 12/2 | 1/13 | Canberra |
| 1 | APS3 | 3 | 2/1 | 0/3 | Canberra |

\*Plus CEO = 1 x PEO Band C, non-ongoing, male, Canberra.

J. Since 2007-08 ACIAR’s staffing trend has remained stable as reflected in the ACIAR Annual report 2009-10.

K. No changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010.

L. No.

M. No, there is no reduction in the agency’s ASL forecast.

N. No voluntary or involuntary redundancies have been offered to staff.

O. Since 1 July 2010, 1 APS 4 permanent staff member has been recruited and is located in Canberra.

P. Since 1 July 2010, 3 staff members have been employed on contract. The average length of employment period is 26 months.

Q. No,staffing numbers have not been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts.

R.There are no current plans for net staff reduction.

S.Not applicable.

T.We do not envisage any changes to graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.

**Question 24**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Electoral reports

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department’s website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?

B. Did the Department prepare electorate level reports for the Government Ministers for the 2010 election? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Please provide copy of latest reports.

C. Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?

**Answer**

1. No. The department does not have a requirement to produce electoral reports on its website.
2. No.
3. No.

**Question 25**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Consultancies

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).

B. How can the department justify this expenditure?

C. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008-09 and 2009-10 FYTD.

D. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government’s tenders and contacts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

E. Has there been any changes in the consultancies are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? If yes, have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

F. Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

**Answer**

A. The Department spent $0.783 million on consultancy services during the period 1 July to 31 October 2010. Details of consultancies valued at $10,000 or more are available on the AusTender website ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)). Details of consultancies over $10,000 for the 2009-10 Financial Year are also listed in Appendix 12 of the department’s 2009-10 Annual Report (page 252). To provide details of consultancies and contracts awarded valued at less than $10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

B. Refer to response to question A.

C. Refer to response to question A. Details of consultancies over $10,000 for 2008-09 are also listed in Appendix 12 of the department’s 2008-09 Annual Report (page 297) and, for 2009-10, in Appendix 12 of the department’s 2009-10 Annual Report (page 252). To provide details of consultancies and contracts awarded valued at less than $10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

D. Yes.

E. Yes, but changes were not material. Refer to response to question A for actual consultancies to date.

F. Refer to response to question A for list of current consultancies. To provide further details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

**Question 26**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Contractors

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.

B. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon’s Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon’s Way? If yes, provide details.

C. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.

D. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.

E. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.

F. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.

G. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.

H. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.

I. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

**Answer**

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

A. No

B. No

C. No

D. Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) engaged McCann-Erickson India in May 2001 to advertise the Australian Film Festival in India.

E. No

F. No

G. No

H. Yes. DFAT engaged The Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd from 12 May 2010 to 29 June 2010 to review the department’s IT capability and IT organisation.

I. No.

***Austrade***

A. No.

B. No.

C. No.

D. Yes. McCann Erickson was engaged on various occasions by Austrade in the 2003–04 financial year for the provision of advertising services including press, radio and internet.

E. No.

F. No.

G. No.

H. No.

I. No.

***AusAID***

A–I. AusAID’s records indicate that AusAID has not employed any of the above named entities in any capacity. To the best of our knowledge, AusAID is not considering employing any of the above named entities.

***Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)***

A-I. Nil response

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A–I. No

**Question 27**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Advertising and marketing

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How much has the Department and portfolio agencies spent on advertising and marketing since Budget Estimates? Ask for justification of expenditure.

B. Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts? Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.

C. What communications programs have the Department and portfolio agencies undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken? For each program, what is the total spend?

**Answer**

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

A. From 1 June 2010 to 31 October 2010 the Department has spent $0.32 million on advertising and marketing. This amount is primarily expenditure on job vacancy and request for tender advertising.

B. Details of current advertising and marketing contracts over the value of $10,000 can be obtained from the AusTender website, the government’s tender and procurement reporting system.

C. There has been $0.076 million public affairs expenditure from 1 February to 31 October 2010 on various campaigns in the Solomon Islands by Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands’ (RAMSI) Office of the Special Coordinator (OSC) to strengthen RAMSI’s mandate through public diplomacy.

The Department has also spent $0.16 million on the Smartraveller campaign. The Smartraveller campaign is the Australian Government’s primary tool for informing Australians of DFAT’s consular assistance and travel advice service and reminding travellers of the importance of properly preparing for overseas travel. It plans to spend $13.6 million over four years, commencing 2010-2011.

***Austrade***

A.From 1 June to 31 October 2010 Austrade has spent a total of $1,066,284.00 on advertising and marketing. This amount includes advertising expenditure on recruitment, tenders, expressions of interest, public notices, Austrade programs, services and events. Marketing expenditure relates to publications, brochures, direct marketing and collateral for events onshore and globally. The expenditure on advertising and marketing reflects Austrade’s role in promoting Australian export opportunities and in attracting foreign direct investment to Australia.

B. Not applicable. DFAT will respond to this part of the question as it relates to the department only.

C. From 1 February 2010 no communications programs have been undertaken and currently there are no planned communications for the near future

***AusAID***

1. Advertising for an AusAID-sponsored event to mark the 10th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was $2,821. This was the only advertising undertaken during this period apart from that related to recruitment and tendering.

B.The information on current contracts relating to advertising and marketing valued at $10,000 or more since Budget Estimates is available on the AusTender web site ([www.tenders.gov.au](file:///\\HOME1\Workgroups3\Sen\SEN00023\ARCHIVING\REF_LEG_COMMITTEES\Legislation%20Committee\Estimates\Questions%20on%20notice\2010-2011%20Budget%20supp\FAT\www.tenders.gov.au)). Details of advertising and marketing contracts for 2009-10 are detailed in Appendix H of the 2009-10 AusAID Annual Report (page 302). To provide details of advertising and marketing contracts awarded valued at less than $10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources. (Provided by DFAT).

1. Communication activities undertaken since Additional Estimates (Feb) and those approved for 2010-11 are:

Blueprint for a Better World: the MDGs and You: A travelling exhibition undertaken in partnership with Caritas Australia. AusAID funding concluded   
30 June 2010. Total funding $507,745.

Refugee Realities: Refugee Realties was a combined exhibition and simulation exercise that allowed people to walk in the shoes of a refugee as they made their way to a refugee camp. It was held in major cities around Australia. A total of $150,801 was provided in sponsorship for the project over two years. It concluded in June 2010.

One Just World public discussion series: Implemented in partnership with World Vision and the International Women’s Development Agency. Eight public forums have been held since February 2010. AusAID was not involved in the forum held in Melbourne in late July as this was during the caretaker period. There will be no forums in December or January but they will continue again from February to June 2011. The total cost in 2009-10 was $260,000. Expected cost for 2010-11 is $310,000.

UNIFEM Australia sponsorship for International Women’s Day: This partnership with UNIFEM Australia helps facilitate International women’s Day events in capital cities around Australia, and in regional centres. AusAID sponsorship was $65,500 in 2009-10 and expected to be $96,400 in 2010-11.

Home Hero Stories: Work began in July 2010 to film Australians from regional areas working on Australian aid projects in 11 countries in the region. Footage will be used on YouTube, the AusAID and other web sites, and will be offered to Australia Network and television stations in the countries involved. The contracted production and editing cost is estimated at $355,000.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325: The 10th anniversary of a commitment by the United Nations Security Council to address the impact of war on women, and to recognise and support women's contributions to preventing conflict and promoting sustainable peace was celebrated with a photographic exhibition mounted in partnership with the Red Cross, launched 27 October 2010. The total cost of the event and its publicity was $10,995.

No other activities are planned at this stage.

***Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)***

1. Since Budget Estimates (27May 2010) Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) has spent $662,000 on advertising and marketing. This expenditure is to promote awareness of EFIC and the solutions we offer, targeting Australian exporters who may be in need of finance or insurance solutions to support their exporting activities.
2. Please see table below for details of current contracts valued at more than $10,000 for advertising and marketing; the rationale for each service and its intended use. To provide details of consultancies valued at less than $10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances; I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Current contracts** | **Rationale and intended use** |
| Sputnik Agency (monthly retainer) | Supply of digital services to support and maintain EFIC websites. |
| Shac Communications (monthly retainer) | Supply of PR services, including media release distribution and media strategy. |

C. Since additional estimates (taken from 1 February 2010) EFIC has undertaken the following communications programs:

* 2010 Global Readiness index: $118,600
* Export Finance Navigator: website build, launch, and awareness campaign: $22,600
* Advertising to raise awareness amongst export community: $423,200
* General marketing, research and PR raising awareness: $626,600

EFIC currently plans to undertake the following programs each expected to cost:

* Events, advertising and PR to support building of brand awareness: $85,000
* End-of-year Economists event series: $10,000
* Advertising & PR: $75,000

It should be noted that EFIC is a self funded statutory corporation. EFIC works with the Government appointed media buying agency, Universal McCann, when booking advertising.

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A. Nil

B. Not applicable

C. Nil

**Question 28**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Discretionary grants

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.

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

**Answer**

A**.** A list of the department’s discretionary grants is publicly available on the department’s website which includes details of grant recipients, purpose and funding location.

B**.** The department administers its discretionary grants in accordance with the Commonwealth Grants Guidelines.

**Question 29**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Commissioned reports

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

B. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?

C. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer**

1. None.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

**Question 30**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Hospitality spending

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What is the Department’s hospitality spending since Budget Estimates 2010? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

B. For each Minister/Parl Sec’s office, please detail total hospitality spending FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

**Answer**

A. Since 1 June 2010 to 31 October 2010, the department has spent $2.11 million in Australia and overseas. To provide hospitality expenditure by date, location, purpose and cost of each event would be a major task and I am not prepared to authorise the expenditure and effort that would be required.

B. Expenditure relating to the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary’s Office is integral to the operations of the Department and is incorporated within total departmental hospitality expenditure (refer A). Records of hospitality expenditure are maintained on individual files across DFAT’s Australian and Overseas network. To provide hospitality expenditure by date, location, purpose and cost of each event would be a major task and I am not prepared to authorise the expenditure and effort that would be required.

**Question 31**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Board appointments

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

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

B. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010?

C. Are you implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards?

**Answer**

1. The gender ratios for each board are listed below. The gender ratio across the portfolio is 33 per cent female board members.
2. The gender ratios of appointments made to each board since Budget Estimates 2010 are listed below. The gender ratio of appointments made to boards across the portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010 is 45 per cent female.
3. Yes. The Government target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

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

1. Total board members: 13 (10 male; 2 female; 1 vacancy). Gender ratio: 16 per cent female.
2. There have been three new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010: two males and one female. Gender ratio: 33.3 per cent female.
3. ACIARPAC is comprised of two Australian members: the Chair and the AusAID Director General (or his nominee) as an *ex officio* member and up to 11 representatives of developing country partner governments.

From 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2010, the position of ACIARPAC Chair was held by a woman. This appointment has now expired and a process to appoint a new Chair is underway.

The overseas representatives are technical experts nominated by their respective governments. ACIAR endeavours where possible to recommend the appointment of senior women with the appropriate expertise and background.

**Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)—Commission for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR Commission)**

1. Total board members: 7 (2 male; 1 female; 4 vacancies). Gender ratio: 33.3 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. The ACIAR Commission is a strategic advisory board comprised of Australian experts with international and domestic experience in agricultural research and development. While ACIAR endeavours to implement the Government target, women are not well represented in this area and at this level in Australia.

**Australia-India Council (AIC)**

1. Total board members: 7 (4 male; 3 female). Gender ratio: 42.8 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. Yes.

**Australia International Cultural Council (AICC)**

1. Total board members 18 (11 male; 7 female). Gender ratio: 38.8 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII)**

1. Total board members: 6 (3 male; 3 female). Gender ratio: 50 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. Yes.

**Australia-Japan Foundation (AJF)**

1. Total board members: 8 (5 male; 3 female). Gender ratio: 37.5 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Australia-Korea Foundation (AKF)**

1. Total board members: 7 (5 male; 2 female). Gender ratio: 28.5 per cent female.
2. There has been one appointment (female) since Budget Estimates 2010. The gender ratio of appointments since Budget Estimates is 100 per cent female.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Australia-Malaysia Institute (AMI)**

1. Total board members: 8 (3 male; 5 female). Gender ratio: 62.5 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. Yes.

**Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI)**

1. Total board members: 9 (7 male; 2 female). Gender ratio: 22.2 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Committee for Development Cooperation (CDC—AusAID)**

1. Total board members: 8 (5 male; 3 female). Gender ratio: 37.5 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Editorial Advisory Board (EAB)**

1. Total board members: 6 (4 male; 2 female). Gender ratio: 33.3 per cent per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Board (EFIC)**

1. Total board members: 9 (7 male; 1 female; 1 position vacant). Gender ratio: 12 per cent female.
2. The only female member was re-appointed on 1 August 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, a list of women with suitable qualifications and expertise is being prepared for consideration by the Minister for Trade.

**Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR)**

1. Total board members: 9 (7 male; 2 female). Gender ratio: 22 per cent female.
2. No new appointments since Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government’s target will continue to be an active consideration in determining any new appointments.

**Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR)**

1. Total board members: 11 (8 male; 3 female). Gender ratio: 27 per cent per cent female.
2. All current board members (8 male; 3 female) were appointed after Budget Estimates 2010.
3. While the current gender ratio is less than 40 per cent, the Government target will continue to be an active consideration in recommending any new appointments to the Ministers. Appointments are made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Minister for Trade in accordance with the COALAR Charter. Factors for consideration include gender.

**Australia-China Council (ACC)**

1. Total board members: 7 (4 male; 3 female). Gender ratio: 42 per cent female.
2. Since Budget Estimates 2010, two females have been appointed; one female re-appointed; and one male re-appointed, giving a gender ratio of 75 per cent female appointments.
3. Yes.

**Question 32**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Freedom of information requests

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?

B. How many FOI requests has the Department received?

C. How many have been granted or denied?

D. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

E. Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief (‘Red Book’)? If yes, when and will it be released?

F. Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief (‘Blue Book’)? If yes, when and will it be released?

**Answer** (as at 12 November 2010)

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

1. Ministers have no part in decisions made in individual FOI requests, and the Department does not seek guidance from Ministers when responding to FOI requests. FOI Guidelines for all Government agencies have been issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and are available online at [www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidlines.cfm](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidlines.cfm) . This website also contains information on the changes to the FOI Act that came into effect on 1 November 2010. DFAT refers to this resource when responding to FOI requests. DFAT receives legal advice from time to time from external legal advisers, including the Australian Government Solicitors, on specific FOI matters. The Department has also received briefings from the Information Commissioner.

B&C In 2009-10 a total of 110 FOI requests were received, of which 85 were granted and 25 denied; and from 1 July to 12 November 2010 a total of 45 were received, of which 6 have so far been granted and 4 denied (with 34 still to be processed).

D. None.

E&F The Department has received five requests for its incoming Government ‘Red Book’ briefs. These include one request for part of only the Foreign Affairs Minister’s brief, one request for the whole of only the Foreign Affairs Minister’s brief and three requests for all of the briefs for both the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministers. One of these requests was also for the incoming government ‘Blue Book’ briefs for both the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministers. As all these requests are still being considered, in accordance with the FOI Act, it is not possible to state when, or if, the briefs will be released.

**Question 33**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Community cabinet

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What was the cost of Minister’s travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010?

B. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?

C. What was the total cost of this travel?

D. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister’s office?

**Answer**

1. Information on Ministers’ domestic travel costs is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD)
2. One Community Cabinet meeting has been held since Budget Estimates 2010. It took place in Perth, Western Australia, on 9 June. Two ministerial staff travelled with Mr Crean and two ministerial staff travelled with Mr Smith. One departmental officer and one officer from Austrade also attended the meeting.
3. Information on Ministers’ domestic travel costs, and the travel costs of their personal staff, is available from DoFD. Departmental travel costs were funded under the department’s ordinary operating budget. There was no additional cost of travel to the portfolio.
4. The departmental officer who attended the meeting did so in the course of his normal daily duties. No additional cost to the department was incurred. Information on Ministers’ costs, and the costs of their personal staff, is available from DoFD.

**Question 34**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?

B. How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or relodged? Please provide example of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

**Answer**

A. The amount of time spent preparing documents for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet meetings varies depending on the complexity of the issue and the extent of consultation within the portfolio. The Department does not keep records of the time spent to produce submissions.

B. It is the longstanding practice of successive Governments not to comment on cabinet processes.

**Question 35**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Reviews

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since Budget Estimates 2010?

B. Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates 2010 including:

i. when those reviews were provided to Government,

ii. estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and

iii. if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.

C. How many reviews are ongoing?

D. How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?

E. What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?

F. Will any of these reviews cease due to the 2010 Election?

**Answer**

1. Seven.
2. Two reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates 2010, as follows:

Australia Network Performance Review (DFAT)

1. The report was provided to the Government on 5 July 2010;
2. Total cost of the review was $62,645;
3. There is no requirement for the Government to respond to the review.

Independent review of the department’s consular services and information (DFAT)

1. The report was initially provided to the Government in June 2010;
2. Total cost of the report was $19,109;
3. The report will be resubmitted to the Government in November 2010.
4. Five.
5. Two.
6. None.
7. No.

**Question 36**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Government payments of accounts

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)

B. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?

C. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer**

1. Departmental statistics on specific payment terms and times for only contractors/ consultants cannot be readily extracted from the department’s Financial Management Information System. Given a resource intensive process would be required to identify and provide specific contractor/consultant statistics, I am not prepared to authorise the expenditure and effort that would be required.

However, statistics are collected to respond to the annual survey on payments to small business. In FY2009-10, the department made 6,632 payments to small businesses:

* Of these payments, 6,303 (95.04%), valued at $34,649,586 (94.49% of invoice value) were paid within 30 days. This falls within the Government’s performance measurement of less than 10% of invoices not paid within 30 days; and
* Of the 329 (4.96%) payments made after 30 days, 230 (3.47%) were paid within 31-44 days, 39 (0.59%) within 45-60 days and 60 (0.90%) not within 60 days.
* The above statistics include payments processed centrally to Australian suppliers on behalf of Australian High Commissions and Embassies.

1. The department is unaware of any late payment interest penalties being paid.
2. Not applicable.

**Question 37**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Government stationery requirements

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)?

B. What are the cost of these items? Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these?

**Answer**

A and B: As at 9 November 2010, the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in the portfolio are as follows:

|  | Stationery Requirements | Cost (exclusive of GST) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Minister for Foreign Affairs | Ministerial Letterhead  Office Letterhead  Envelopes | $43.87 for pack of 250  $44.03 for pack of 250  DL $25.00 for box of 500  C4 $53.21 for box of 250  C5 $60.71 for box of 500 |
| Minister for Trade | Ministerial Letterhead  Ministerial Letterhead (with photograph)  Envelopes | $40.12 for pack of 250  $29.26 for pack of 100  DL $25.00 for box of 500  C4 $53.21 for box of 250  C5 $60.71 for box of 500 |
| Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs | Letterhead  Envelopes | $46.84 for pack of 250  DL $39.71 for box of 500  C4 $53.21 for box of 250 |
| Parliamentary Secretary for Trade | Letterhead  Envelopes | $44.00 for pack of 250  DL $39.71 for box of 500  C4 $53.21 for box of 250 |

B. Yes. In accordance with Department of Finance and Deregulation guidelines, these costs are the responsibility of the portfolio department and agencies.

**Question 38**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Administrative arrangements orders

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Can you detail what changes have occurred in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 September 2010?

i. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage or whether refurbishment or additional space will need to be leased to accommodate new staff? Alternatively, will agencies be left with empty office space due to loss of staff). Please provide details

ii. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.

B. Were there any changes in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 October 2010?

i. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage)? Please provide details.

ii. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.

C. Can you describe what, if any, Administrative Arrangements Orders occurred in your portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010? Please detail the costs associated with these.

**Answer**

A. Nil.

B. No.

C. The AAO published on 3 December 2007 listed the *Australian Development Assistance Agency (Repeal) Act 1977* among the legislation administered by the Minister. This Act was not listed in the AAO published on 25 January 2008 or in AAOs published subsequently.

The AAO published on 3 December 2007 listed “trade promotion” among the matters dealt with by the Department. The AAO published on 25 January 2008 amended this to “trade promotion and international business development”.

The AAO published on 6 May 2010 further amended this to “trade and international business development”. The same AAO added “investment promotion” to the matters dealt with by the Department.

**Question 39**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Media subscriptions

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.

B. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.

C. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.

**Answer**

The following answers relate to the media subscriptions of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. To provide information on media subscriptions for Australian missions abroad would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

A. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade subscribes to Foxtel and Transact in order to monitor reporting of issues of portfolio relevance in both the international and domestic electronic media. DFAT subscribes to the Parliamentary Broadcasting System in order to monitor Parliamentary proceedings of portfolio relevance.

| Subscription | Channels | Cost |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Foxtel | BBC World  CNN  A-APAC  Sky New Australia  Sky News for Business | $18,641 |
| Parliamentary Broadcasting System | Parliament House channels | $6,153 |
| Transact | Transgov IPTV | $2,767 |

B.The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade subscribed to a range of newspapers, hardcopy and online, in order to monitor reporting of issues of portfolio relevance. The cost of these subscriptions in Financial Year 2009-2010 was $167,206.

The newspapers included:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide Advertiser | Herald Sun |
| Age | International Herald Tribune |
| Australian | Queensland Country Life |
| Australian Financial Review | Sydney Morning Herald |
| Canberra Times | The Land |
| Courier Mail | Wall Street Journal |
| Daily Telegraph | Weekly Times |
| Financial Times | West Australian |
| Guardian Weekly |  |

C. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, primarily the departmental library, subscribed to a range of magazines and journals – hardcopy and online - in order to monitor reporting and specialised discussion of issues of portfolio relevance. The cost of these subscriptions in Financial Year 2009-2010 was $67,723.

| The magazines and journals included: |
| --- |
| African Affairs |
| Agrifacts |
| American Interest, The |
| Arms Control Today |
| ASEAN Economic Bulletin |
| Asian Survey |
| Asia-Pacific Review |
| Australian Journal of Human Rights |
| Australian Journal of International Affairs |
| Australian Journal of Political Science |
| Australian Journal of Politics and History |
| British Journal of Politics and International Relations |
| Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies |
| Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists |
| Business Review Weekly |
| CBW Conventions Bulletin |
| China Journal |
| China Quarterly |
| Choice |
| Contemporary Southeast Asia |
| CSI Frontline |
| Current History |
| Diplomacy and Statecraft |
| Economist, The |
| Ethics and International Affairs |
| European Foreign Affairs Review |
| European Voice |
| FMA Magazine |
| Foreign Affairs |
| Foreign Policy |
| Foreign Service Journal |
| Global Change, Peace and Security |
| Hague Journal of Diplomacy |
| Human Rights Quarterly |
| ICT E-newsletter |
| India Review |
| Inside US Trade |
| International Affairs |
| International Journal |
| International Organization |
| International Peacekeeping |
| International Relations of the Asia-Pacific |
| International Security |
| Islands Business |
| Journal of Democracy |
| Journal of International Affairs |
| Journal of International Economic Law |
| Journal of Latin American Studies |
| Journal of World Trade |
| Latin America Monitor |
| Latin American Weekly Report |
| Le Nouvel Observateur |
| Management Today |
| Mediterranean Quarterly |
| Middle East Journal |
| Middle East Policy |
| National Geographic |
| National Interest |
| New Political Economy |
| New Scientist |
| New York Review of Books |
| New Zealand International Review |
| Non-Proliferation Review |
| Nuclear Engineering |
| Nuclear Fuel |
| Nucleonics Week |
| OH&S Alerts |
| Peace Review |
| Political Science Quarterly |
| Prospect Magazine |
| Review of International Studies |
| Round Table |
| Security Challenges |
| Security Management Magazine |
| Security Solutions Magazine |
| Security Studies |
| Spectator |
| Strategic Survey |
| Survival |
| Third World Quarterly |
| Time |
| V Facts |
| World Economy |
| World Politics Review |
| World Today |
| World Trade Review |

**Question 40**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Travel costs

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.

B. Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?

C. Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?

D. Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?

E. How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year.

F. How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange trave?

**Answer**

A. The Whole-of Australian-Government (WoAG) travel services arrangements apply to travel by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) staff within and from Australia. Travel undertaken from overseas posts is not affected.

DFAT has an Interim Agency Contract, valid until 30 June 2011, with its former Travel Management Company (TMC), Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT). DFAT will release a Request for Quotation on 31 January 2011 to select and appoint a TMC from the Department of Finance and Deregulation panel by 30 June 2011. DFAT will be the lead agency for a portfolio cluster comprised of Austrade and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Under the WoAG arrangements, DFAT purchases air travel based on the discounted fares negotiated by Finance with the appointed airlines. Prior to implementation of the WoAG arrangements, DFAT or its TMC negotiated fare discounts directly with airlines.

B. With the new arrangements having been in place for only four months and travel patterns differing from year to year, it is too early to assess.

C. As DFAT is operating under an Interim Agency Contract with CWT, there has not yet been any change in how travel services are purchased.

D. Refer to response to question B.

E. Expenditure on travel (air travel, accommodation and car hire) booked in Australia through DFAT’s TMC (CWT) was:

2008-09 $22,160,438

2009-10 $24,547,854

July-October 2010 $5,886,032

F. Refer to response to question C.

***Austrade***

A. Whole of Government procurement for domestic and international (ex-Australia) air fares, and travel management companies (TMCs), were implemented on 1 July 2010 for all Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) Act agencies for travel undertaken from or within Australia. As an FMA agency, Austrade has been using the arrangement for procurement of airfares in Australia since that date. Under the new arrangement, Austrade in conjunction with DFAT will be approaching the TMCs on the Whole of Government panel early in 2011. In the meantime, Austrade continues to use its existing TMC, to procure airfares under the Whole of Government arrangements.

B. At this stage, detailed fare and cost data under the new arrangements is only available for the first 3 months of operation. Given varying travel patterns year on year, it is too early to provide an accurate response, although some domestic air fares have been less expensive on some routes.

C. Austrade is continuing to use the same TMC under the new arrangements and there is no discernable change at this time to the efficiency of purchasing travel and related services.

D. As noted at (B) above, it is too early to determine the level of savings being achieved.

E. Expenditure on air fares, accommodation and car hire subject to the whole of Government’s consolidated procurement arrangements were (a) 2008–09: $3,006,297: (b) 2009–10: $3,219,359; (c) 2010–11 YTD (4 months July to October): $901,428.

F. As noted at (C) above there is little or no change to the manner of procuring travel under the new arrangements.

***AusAID***

A. AusAID adopted the Whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) travel services procurement policies effective 1 July 2010 whereby the Agency purchases domestic and international air travel through a travel management company (TMC). The arrangements apply to travel within and from Australia. Travel undertaken from overseas posts is not affected.

While an Interim Agency Contract has been entered into with the Agency’s former TMC, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), an evaluation committee will call for quotations from up to five TMCs from the Department of Finance and Deregulation panel. In line with the Department of Finance and Deregulation’s schedule, AusAID will call for quotations on 17 February 2011 with a view to appointing a TMC in late April 2011.

Under the WoAG arrangements, the Department of Finance and Deregulation has negotiated fares with four domestic airlines and thirteen international airlines rather than the former arrangement whereby AusAID (through the old DFAT portfolio cluster) and CWT negotiated fares directly with airlines. To date the WoAG arrangements have not changed the manner in which AusAID travellers’ book or undertake travel.

B. As the new arrangements have been in place for four months and given that travel patterns being different from year to year, there is insufficient data at this stage to undertake any meaningful comparison of whether travel and related services are less expensive under the new arrangements.

C. Under the Interim Agency Contract with CWT, there has been no change in the modality of purchasing travel services.

D. With the new arrangements having been in place for only four months and travel patterns being different from year to year, there is insufficient data at this stage to undertake any meaningful comparison of whether travel and related services are less expensive under the new arrangements.

E. Expenditure on travel (air travel, accommodation and car hire) through AusAID’s TMC CWT which arranges travel within and from Australia was:

2008-2009 $9,670,895

2009-2010 $7,649,979

July-October 2010 $1,802,147

F. Under the Interim Agency Contract with CWT, there has been no change in t he modality of purchasing travel services.

**Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)**

A. As a CAC Act agency, EFIC elected not to participate in the initial phase of the WoAG travel services arrangements.

B. Not applicable.

C. Not applicable.

D. Not applicable.

E. 2008/09: $1,153,481, 2009/10: $983,764, 2010/11 to date: $251,543.

F. Not applicable.

**Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)**

A. ACIAR adopted the Whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) travel services procurement policies effective 1 July 2010 whereby the Agency purchases domestic and international air travel through a travel management company. The arrangements apply to travel within and from Australia. Travel undertaken from posts is not affected.

Under the new arrangement, ACIAR in conjunction with DFAT and Austrade will be approaching the travel management companies on the whole-of-government panel early in 2011.

B. With the new arrangements having been in place for only four months and travel patterns being different from year to year, there is insufficient data at this stage to undertake any meaningful comparison of whether travel and related services are less expensive under the new arrangements.

C. ACIAR is operating under an Interim Agency Contract with Carlson Wagonlit Travel so there has been no change in the modality of purchasing travel services as yet.

D. As per response to question B.

E. Expenditure on travel (air travel, accommodation and car hire) through ACIAR’s travel management company, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, which arranges travel within and from Australia, was:

2008-2009 $580,056

2009-2010 $513,846

July-October 2010 $166,459

F. As per response to question C.

**Question 41**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Commonwealth property management framework

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed the establishment of Commonwealth Property Management Framework. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?

B. Has the implementation of this Framework lead to savings in your portfolio? Please provide details.

**Answer**

**DFAT**

A. The Commonwealth Property Management Framework has been fully applied by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Property Data Collection (PRODAC) reporting to the Department of Finance and Deregulation has been undertaken and the Property Management Plan has been updated.

B. No. Any savings will be assessed following the completion of current lease negotiations.

***AusAID***

A. The Commonwealth Property Management Framework has been applied to AusAID through the reporting requirements of the Department of Finance and Deregulation in the Property Data Collection (PRODAC) process and the completion of the AusAID Property Management Plan.

B. The Framework will lead to savings for AusAID as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agency | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | **Total** |
|
| AusAID | **0** | **0** | **-26,902** | **-53,805** | **-53,805** | **-134,512** |

***Austrade***

1. The establishment of the Commonwealth Property Management Framework has applied to Austrade in the following way:
   * + - Austrade has a property management plan for 2010–11 (applicable to Australian properties only) in place.
       - Austrade complies with the Australian Government Property Data Collection (PRODAC) and collects specific data relating to its Australian portfolio and reports this information to the Department of Finance and Deregulation bi-annually as at 30 April and 30 October each year.

In addition, Austrade complies with the Property Management Policy Principles which form part of the Commonwealth Property Management Framework.

1. The implementation of the Commonwealth Property Management Framework has potential to achieve savings in Austrade’s property portfolio. The Property Management Plan for 2010–11 provides for strategic decision making including the review of property leases which are due to either expire or be renewed within the next 12-18 months.

***Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)***

1. The Commonwealth Property Management Framework does not apply to CAC Act bodies. EFIC is a CAC Act Body and therefore this policy does not apply to EFIC.
2. Not applicable.

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A. Minimal Impact. ACIAR has one fixed term leased property with an area of less than 2000m2.

B. No.

**Question 42**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Whole-of-government departmental efficiencies

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?

B. Can you provide details of how these efficiencies will be achieved? Please provide specific examples.

C. Will the implementation of the Government’s election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend impact on your department or portfolio agencies ability to meet the efficiencies outlined in the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook?

D. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff to meet the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies in your portfolio? If so, please provide details? Are there such plans for the future?

**Answer**

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

A. Extract from the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook:

|  | 2008‑09 | 2009‑10 | 2010‑11 | 2011‑12 | 2012‑13 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Australian Trade Commission | - | -1.9 | -5.0 | -5.0 | -5.1 |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | - | -7.0 | -21.9 | -33.0 | -25.3 |
| Total | - | -8.8 | -26.9 | -38.0 | -30.4 |
| *Related capital ($m)* |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade* | *-* | *-0.7* | *0.1* | *-0.5* | *-* |

This measure will provide savings of $105.2 million over four years from the portfolio.

B. DFAT is implementing a range of measures to deliver these savings, including:

* + rationalising the provision of diplomatic services and changing accommodation arrangements overseas;
  + reducing operating costs of the Overseas Property Office (OPO).

C. No .

D. No.

***Austrade***

A & B. The 2009–10 MYEFO update included a DFAT portfolio savings measure including $17 million over four years for Austrade to rationalise its onshore office network to better target service locations and improve online information provision.

The savings are being achieved through a rationalised TradeStart program that will focus on increasing effectiveness through closer collaboration with partners including State and Territory Governments and appropriate industry bodies and through reduced resources in the Austrade onshore delivery network. In 2010–11 savings in the onshore delivery network are being achieved in a range of administrative activities including, for example, travel.

C. No.

D. No. As noted in A& B above, Austrade is achieving the required savings reductions in administration and operational expenditures, for example, travel. An internal review of the administrative and operational arrangements and priorities of Austrade began in June 2010 and is still to be completed.

***AusAID***

A. The efficiencies were not applied to AusAID expenditure.

B. Not Applicable: refer to the response to (A) above.

C. Not Applicable: refer to the response to (A) above.

D. Not Applicable: refer to the response to (A) above.

***Export Finance and Insurance (EFIC)***

A. DFAT to answer

B. Not applicable

C. No

D. No. None. No

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A. Nil Impact on ACIAR

B. Not applicable

C. Not applicable

D. Not applicable

**Question 43**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Budget

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to exceed their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

B. Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to under spend their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

**Answer**

***Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

A. No.

B. No.

***Austrade***

A. No.

B. No.

***AusAID***

1. There are no known programs at the present time which are likely to exceed their budget.
2. No

***Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)***

A. Nil response

B. Nil response

***Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

A. No

B. No

**Question 44**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Securency

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

Please provide details of any contacts between the embassy staff in Hanoi and the Securency Vietnam agent Anh Ngoc Luong between 1998 and today for both DFAT and Austrade.

**Answer**

An examination of DFAT and Austrade records shows the following contact between embassy staff in Hanoi and Anh Ngoc Luong since 1998.

2/8/1999: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

Week commencing 6/9/1999: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

Week commencing 18/10/1999: Telephone discussion with Austrade local staff member

26/11/1999: Anh Ngoc Luong invited to Australia for a December 1999 Austrade seminar series on the Vietnam market

23/3/2000: Discussion with Senior Trade Commissioner

11/8/2000: Discussion with Senior Trade Commissioner

28/8/2000: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

8/9/2000: Telephone discussion with Senior Trade Commissioner

12/9/2000: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

11/10/2000: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

12/10/2000: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

21/11/2000: Meeting with Austrade staff

19/12/2000: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

27/12/2000: Dinner with Senior Trade Commissioner

Week commencing 19/2/2001: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

13/3/2001: Telephone discussion with Senior Trade Commissioner

14/3/2001: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

Week commencing 19/3/2001: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

26/3/2002: Meeting with Senior Trade Commissioner

17/3/2006: Dinner hosted by the Embassy to which Anh Ngoc Luong was invited; approximately 85 people attended

17/7/2008: Australia-Vietnam Joint Trade and Economic Cooperation Committee business delegation included Anh Ngoc Luong

26/8/2008: Lunch attended by Embassy staff to which Anh Ngoc Luong was also invited; approximately 8 people attended

26/8/2008: Dinner hosted by the Embassy to which Anh Ngoc Luong was invited; approximately 8 people attended

17/12/2008: Reception hosted by the Embassy to which Anh Ngoc Luong was invited; approximately 20 people attended

8/1/2009: Lunch hosted by the Embassy to which Anh Ngoc Luong was invited; approximately 50 people attended

17/2/2009: Reception hosted by the Embassy, to which Anh Ngoc Luong was invited; approximately 100 people attended

16/4/2009: Business lunch attended by Embassy staff to which Anh Ngoc Luong was invited; approximately 20 people attended

2/6/2009: Meeting with Embassy staff at the request of Company For Technology and Development (CFTD), Anh Ngoc Luong’s firm

27/10/2009: Meeting with Embassy staff at the request of Securency.

There would also have been email, fax, letters, and/or phone contact with Anh Ngoc Luong associated with the contacts listed above and other contacts or meetings of which we do not have a record.

**Question 45**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Cyber threats

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. Is the Government concerned about the growing prevalence of cyber espionage?

B. With the reality of a growing cyber threat, what measures has the Department implemented to adequately protect the integrity of its systems?

C. How many cyber breaches has DFAT experienced this year?

D. Has the frequency and the sophistication of cyber attacks increased? How do the figures compare with previous years?

E. Have the sources of the attacks been able to be identified? Where do most of them come from?

F. To what extent is DFAT working with the Department of Defence’s new Cyber Security Operation Command (CSOC )and CERT to address the cyber-threat? What is the nature of this cooperation?

**Answer**

A. Yes

B. to F. Consistent with the practice of successive governments, DFAT does not intend to comment on intelligence or security matters.

**Question 46**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Travel advice

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How is the information in travel advisories prepared?

B. What factors determine whether an upgrade in warnings will be issued?

C. Recently, the US and Britain updated their travel advisories to Europe. Why did Australia not do the same?

**Answer**

1. In preparing travel advisories, the Department draws on a range of sources of information, including:

* assessments from Australian diplomatic missions overseas
* our experience of common or recurring consular problems that Australians experience overseas
* intelligence reports
* advice from other Government departments and agencies
* advisories prepared by our consular partners (US, UK, New Zealand and Canada) although we may reach different conclusions.

1. Travel advisories are regularly reissued, with new language, when new information comes to hand, although this does not automatically trigger a change in the level of advice. The level assigned to a particular country reflects our best overall assessment of the safety and security risks Australians may face in that country. The level of advice is upgraded when it is assessed that the safety and security risks to Australians have increased. In making such assessments, DFAT carefully considers a wide range of factors, including but not limited to terrorism, political tensions, crime, local travel conditions, natural disasters, health issues, and the capacity of a foreign government to deal with the risks. Assessments issued by the National Threat Assessment Centre, in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), are taken into consideration as part of this process.
2. DFAT revised and reissued travel advisories for 38 European countries on 4 October to include a factual reference and hotlink to a US Travel Alert published on 3 October. The US Travel Alert notes that al Qaida and affiliated organisations continue to plan attacks in Europe and warns of the potential for terrorists to attack public transport systems and other tourist infrastructure. The US Travel Alert does not refer specifically to any country. DFAT did not change its overall level of advice for any European country. DFAT does not publish a travel advisory or travel bulletin for Europe as a whole.

**Question 47**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Coordinated national security budget

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

According to an incoming brief for the Secretary Mr Richardson from the International Security Division (ISD) “The objective of a coordinated ‘national security budget’ has potentially significant policy and resource implications for the Department.” What a significant policy and resource implications does the Department expect from the ‘coordinated national security budget’?

**Answer**

DFAT no longer expects significant policy or resource implications for the Department to flow from the coordinated national security budget.

**Question 48**

Portfolio overview

Topic: United Nations Security Council bid

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

The brief for the incoming Secretary Mr Richardson from the International Organisations and Legal Division (ILD) advised: “We intend recommending to Mr Smith that we convene in the first quarter of 2010 a meeting of all our multilateral ambassadors in Canberra, including to help refine our UNSC bid strategy”.

A. Did this meeting occur? When?

B. Who attended the meeting?

C. What was discussed at the meeting?

D. Were any recommendations made?

E. Why does the UNSC bid strategy require refining?

**Answer**

A. Yes, 15-16 March 2010.

B. The Heads of Australia’s UN Missions to New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Paris, attended, as well as a range of officials from Canberra-based agencies.

C. Australia’s engagement across the multilateral system.

D. Yes.

E. UNSC campaigns are highly contested. We are running a dynamic campaign and it is important to refine our strategy at regular intervals.

**Question 49**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Australia's Embassy in Kabul

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. How many staff from DFAT and AusAid are currently located in the Australian Embassy at Kabul?

B. How many of the current staff are A-based and how many are LES?

C. At the previous Senate Estimates hearings in June, Mr Page stated that “Control Risks is the only group that the department contracts to globally and it is only in Kabul.”Does this continue to be the case?

D. What other private security firms does DFAT have contracts with and where?

E. Does the firm Control Risks have any other contracts with the Department? What is the purpose of these contracts? What are they worth?

F. At the previous Senate Estimates hearings in September, the Secretary of the Department Mr Richardson mentioned in relation to DFAT personnel who are deployed outside of Kabul that “In Oruzgan Province, if they have a requirement to go outside the base—or outside the wire as it is commonly referred to—then they receive security protection by the ADF. In some cases they have received it by the Dutch or by whatever attachment might be available.” Since the withdrawal of the Dutch troops has this protection had to cease? Or has the ADF assumed the role?

**Answer**

A&B. Consistent with the practice of successive governments, DFAT does not comment on the number of personnel at individual posts.

1. The contract between DFAT and Control Risks Group to supply security services to the Embassy in Kabul expired on 31 October 2010. Following an open Request for Tender, DFAT has since entered into a new two-year contract with Hart Security Australia Pty Ltd for the provision of security to the Embassy in Kabul. This contract commenced on 1 November 2010. Since the previous Senate Estimates hearings in May 2010, DFAT assumed responsibility on 1 July 2010 for the Department of Defence’s contract with Unity Resources Group (URG) to provide security services to the Embassy in Baghdad. These contracts are administered globally from Canberra and are the only arrangements DFAT has with international security suppliers who specialise in Close Personal Protection.

D. DFAT has numerous arrangements with local security suppliers at posts around the world. These firms provide a range of routine security services, such as alarm-monitoring, patrolling and crime-prevention. A list of security providers used by overseas posts is *attached*.

E. The Control Risks Group contract with DFAT to provide security services to the Embassy in Kabul expired on 31 October 2010. DFAT has no other contracts with Control Risks Group.

F. The protection of DFAT personnel in Oruzgan Province has not stopped with the withdrawal of Dutch troops: Australian Defence Forces continue to provide force protection for activity undertaken by the DFAT-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and US military also provide force protection for the PRT.

**Question 50**

Portfolio overview

Topic: Commonwealth Games in India

Written question

**Senator Trood asked:**

A. What advice was given to the Australian team with regard to security risks?

B. Who within Government makes the assessment about the level of threat and the level of protection?

C. Was that risk assessment provided to team officials?

D. Was advice provided to team officials that was not included in the travel advisory?

E. How many meetings were held with team officials and how many with individual athletes?

F. How many officials and/or athletes requested meetings?

G. Were there any requests from team officials or athletes from team officials or athletes for additional information or advice?

H. What support was provided in terms of security arrangements?

I. What role, if any, did DFAT have in the led up to the organisation of the Commonwealth Games?

J. At the previous Budget Senate Estimates hearings, Mr Richardson stated that “We have been regularly visiting Commonwealth Games sites.”

K. Who visited the sites?

L. How often?

M. Which sites were they?

N. Were progress reports sent to Australia? Were they passed onto the Australian games authorities?

**Answer**

A. The Government’s best assessment of the risks to Australians attending the Games was reflected in the travel advice for India and an event-specific special Commonwealth Games travel bulletin. In the lead-up to and during the Commonwealth Games, DFAT provided regular briefings to the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA) and, on request, national sporting organisations in line with the travel advice for India and the Commonwealth Games travel bulletin.

B. The National Threat Assessment Centre (NTAC) in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) is responsible for assessing threats to Australian interests. The Attorney-General’s Department is responsible for assessing levels of protection and coordinating security measures for high office holders overseas and Internationally Protected Persons and visiting foreign dignitaries in Australia. The Government was not responsible for making decisions about the level of protection afforded to the Australian Commonwealth Games team, as that was the responsibility of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association as well as individual teams.

C. NTAC threat assessments were not provided to team officials. Where relevant, information from NTAC assessments was reflected in the India travel advice and Commonwealth Games travel bulletin.

D. In the lead-up to and during the Commonwealth Games, DFAT provided regular briefings to the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA) and, on request, national sporting organisations in line with the travel advice for India and the event-specific Commonwealth Games travel bulletin. Subscribers to these services also received emails alerting them to updates.

DFAT also advised the ACGA of each update to the travel advice and Commonwealth Games travel bulletin and the basis for the change. During the Games, DFAT also advised the ACGA when specific threat information, including threats reported in the media, was assessed as not credible by NTAC.

E. DFAT, including the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, and other government agencies held numerous meetings with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA) over the 18 months leading up to the Games. This included support for test sports events in India, briefings on the role of travel advice, the risks to Australians of travel in India, updates on Indian preparations for the Games and exchanges on emergency planning. Engagement with the ACGA included regular phone discussions and face to face meetings, culminating in daily briefings during the Games. As the peak Commonwealth Games body, the ACGA distributed information to national sporting organisations participating in the Games.

DFAT briefed national sporting organisations on safety and security issues in June 2010. Members of the men’s hockey, shooting and lawn bowls teams were briefed by the Australian High Commission on arrival for test events in New Delhi. DFAT in Canberra and the Australian High Commission also briefed Hockey Australia and Netball Australia officials at their request.

No meetings were held with individual athletes.

F. No individual athletes requested meetings. The Australian High Commission in New Delhi briefed the men’s hockey, shooting and lawn bowls teams on arrival in New Delhi for test events in those sports. DFAT in Canberra and the Australian High Commission also briefed Hockey Australia and Netball Australia officials at their request.

G. Prior to the Games, DFAT provided safety and security briefings to ACGA officials, a number of national sporting organisations and other organisations involved in the Games. These briefings were consistent with the India travel advice and Commonwealth Games travel bulletin.

During the briefings, a number of sporting and other organisations sought information on Indian preparations for the Commonwealth Games, emergency plans and security advice. DFAT did not provide security advice, but encouraged organisations that had concerns to seek professional security advice.

H. In the lead up to and during the Games, agencies across Government worked closely on safety and security issues and contingency planning. Australian officials liaised with the ACGA and their private security adviser on a range of issues including security planning. The capacity of the High Commission in New Delhi was increased to support Games operations and to assist the initial response to a possible incident.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) deployed staff to New Delhi to work with the Australian team as athlete liaison officers, and also to work with Indian authorities and other Commonwealth countries.

I. DFAT had no role in the organisation of the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games Federation and the Indian Organising Committee were responsible for organising the Games.

DFAT coordinated whole-of-government security planning, preparations and operations in support of Australians attending the Commonwealth Games.

J. (not a question)

K. Since 2008, Australian officials worked closely with the Indian Government, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the Indian Organising Committee on Games planning, including on Games venue issues. Representatives from the Australian High Commission in New Delhi and senior Australian officials visited a range of Commonwealth Games venues and sites as part of Games planning and preparations.

The High Commission also worked closely with other key Commonwealth countries (United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand) and representatives from these countries also undertook site visits to Games venues. Information from these site visits was shared to support Games planning and preparations.

L. Australian officials visited Games sites as often as possible, including during major international security conferences held in the lead up to the Games, and as part of pre-Games test events (i.e. the Hockey World Cup, the Commonwealth Shooting Championships and Lawn Bowls Championships). Australian officials also raised a range of venue issues with the Indian Government and the Commonwealth Games Federation on 32 occasions. Prior to the commencement of the Games, officials from the Australian, United Kingdom, Canadian and New Zealand High Commissions visited all the Games competition venues and the Village, dividing up venues among them and sharing their assessments. As part of this process, officials from the Australian High Commission visited three venues of behalf of the group.

M. Between February and August 2010, officials from the Australian High Commission and Canberra visited the hockey, shooting, lawn bowls, weightlifting, cycling, gymnastics, netball, swimming (several times), athletics (several times), and wrestling venues. High Commission officials also visited the Games Family Hotel (the Ashok), the International Broadcast Centre and the Main Press Centre during this period. As part of the shared visits with our three partner countries in September 2010, officials visited the Yamuna Sports Complex (Archery and Table Tennis); the R K Khanna Tennis Complex and the Siri Fort Complex (Badminton and Squash). Representatives of the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand High Commissions visited the other competition venues, sharing their assessments with the Australian High Commission.

N. The High Commission in New Delhi provided regular reporting on Commonwealth Games preparations and planning. DFAT provided regular oral updates to the ACGA drawing on information in these reports.