

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

Question No. 1

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

1. When will AusAID be presenting a draft funding agreement to the OCTA that does not contain conditionalities that limit the overall remit of the office nor contain clauses that leave Australia's funding commitment dependent upon the OCTA only undertaking PACER-Plus related activities?
2. If such a commitment cannot be provided on what grounds was that decision made?
3. Given that PACER-Plus is seen by Australia as a 'development' agreement with the interests of the Pacific at its heart, will Australia take a negotiating position that acknowledges the differences in levels of development between Australia and the Forum Island Countries and make offers accordingly to the Pacific early harvest issues proposed by a number of Pacific countries?
4. To that end will Australia do this by offering asymmetrical Rules of Origin, regional accumulation and Change of Tariff Classification at 6 digit level to the Forum Island Countries as part of an 'early harvest'? Will Australia confirm that any 'early harvest' commitments that it offers, whilst may be contained in, will not be conditional upon the completion of a comprehensive WTO-compatible regional trade agreement?
5. Can the Department confirm that it is committing to negotiate on access under PACER-Plus and that it will be looking at issues beyond the extension of the Pilot Seasonal Worker Program? Will the Department be providing a response to the paper put forward by the Forum Island Countries prior to the next meeting of PACER-Plus officials with adequate time for review by officials?

Answer:

This is a joint response from AusAID and DFAT.

1. AusAID will not be offering the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser an unconditional funding agreement.
2. Consistent with Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers' decisions, Australia is funding the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser to provide advice to Forum Island countries on the PACER Plus negotiations only.
3. Australia's negotiating position takes into account the different stages of development of Forum Island countries and we have committed to discuss development assistance as part of our approach to the PACER Plus negotiations. Australia will not make offers in the PACER Plus negotiations based on an "early harvest" approach.

4. No. Australia will not make offers in the PACER Plus negotiations based on an “early harvest” approach.
5. The Australian Government is committed to the PACER Plus negotiations, including discussing market access issues. The Australian Government is planning to provide a response on labour mobility prior to the next PACER Plus officials’ meeting. Separately, the Government is considering the future of the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme.

Question No. 2

Senator Kroger asked in writing

Following the decision of the Queensland Labor Government to close the TB clinics on Sabai and Boigu Islands, I understand the Federal Government committed to keep them open until February 2012.

1. What discussions have taken place between the Government and AusAID in relation to the closure of these clinics?
2. Has AusAID made representations to the Minister or his office in relation to this matter?
3. Has AusAID undertaken studies to determine the health implications of closing these clinics?
4. Have representations been made from the Torres Strait Regional Authority or the Torres Strait Regional Council, seeking support through AusAID?

Answer:

1. There is strong collaboration among Australian Government agencies on addressing the issue of TB treatment for PNG Nationals. This includes through the Torres Strait Cross Border Health Issues Committee (HIC), of which AusAID is a member. The HIC brings together relevant government agencies, including the Department of Health and Ageing, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Queensland Health, to discuss the clinics and management of TB treatment for PNG nationals. In 2011 meetings of the HIC were held in March and September. Additional meetings to discuss arrangements for the transfer of patients from Queensland to PNG were held in June and September 2011.
2. AusAID has provided advice to the Minister on this issue.
3. AusAID has not undertaken specific studies to determine the health implications of Queensland Health’s decision to close its TB clinics to PNG nationals. AusAID’s focus is on improving the health services available on the PNG side of the border. The World Health Organization undertook an independent assessment of TB services in Western Province in October 2011 at the request of the Government of PNG’s National Department of Health. The final report will be delivered to the Government of PNG in December 2011.
4. No.

Question No. 3

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Please provide an overview of aid spending in PNG as part of the country strategy.

Answer:

The Australian Government will provide \$482.3 million of official development assistance for PNG in 2011-12.

The Australian Government's country strategy in PNG is set by the PNG-Australia Partnership for Development. Commitments are detailed in the schedules to the Partnership. The four priority areas for support under the Partnership are education (including higher education), health (including HIV/AIDS), transport infrastructure and law and justice. The Partnership and schedules are available on the AusAID website <http://www.usaid.gov.au/country/papua.cfm>

Question No. 4

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Has AusAID encountered any recent problems with its work in PNG?

Answer:

PNG is a challenging environment in which to deliver aid. AusAID continues to address problems arising from PNG's limited public sector capacity to deliver services, weakly functioning systems of government, law and order challenges, corruption and challenging geography.

Question No. 5

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

At previous estimates we heard of awful stories of violence against aid workers in PNG. What is the current situation with aid workers? Are they safe? Have there been any more attacks on them?

Answer:

Violent crime is a serious problem in Papua New Guinea and AusAID ensures that arrangements are in place to keep Australian Government-supported aid workers as safe as possible. The Australian Government closely monitors the security environment in PNG and regularly reviews all protective security measures.

AusAID has conducted a comprehensive review of the security arrangements for Government-funded Australian volunteers overseas, which was completed in May

2011. A number of enhanced security measures are being implemented across the volunteer program in PNG in response to the findings of the review.

Since the last Senate Budget Estimates in June 2011, security incidents involving AusAID staff, their families, or AusAID contractors, total five attempted carjackings, one incident of threatening behaviour and one incident of theft. AusAID has strengthened its security framework in response to these incidents.

Question No. 6

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. Please outline the AusAID investment in Mabaduan Village (the treatment zone area) by AusAID.
2. Are there any TB drugs in Mabaduan village? If so, what are they?
3. Is there any drug storage facility in Mabaduan?
4. Is there any X-ray facility in Mabaduan?
5. Is there any microscope for basic diagnosis?
6. Did AusAID accompany the recent (early October) clinical trip to Boigu. If not, why not?
7. Is there any means of communication between doctors and health care workers who are based Mabaduan?
8. Is there any mobile phone service available via Digicell in Mabaduan? Has AusAID provided Maslik with a mobile phone? If the actual AusAID people have Blackberries, is there a reason why the health care worker in the treatment zone doesn't?
9. Is there any TB boat to travel to the villages in the south fly region? If so, what are the specifications?

Answer:

1. Australia and PNG have jointly agreed to improve health services in the treaty zone area, including Mabaduan, through the Western Province Package of Measures to address cross-border health concerns. Scoping for the refurbishment of current health centre infrastructure in Mabaduan, particularly the labour ward, water supply and general exterior maintenance, has recently been undertaken. The refurbishment of the health centre will include a two-bed ward for TB patients, the refurbishment of three staff houses and the building of two new staff houses. This will all be funded out of the PNG component of the Package of Measures.
2. MDRTB patients in Mabaduan are currently under the treatment of Queensland Health through the Torres Strait clinics and receive their drug supply from Queensland Health. The care of these cases will be transferred back to PNG and Daru General Hospital will ensure the continuation of their drug requirements, with facilitation from AusAID. TB drugs for sensitive TB (non-MDRTB) are currently supplied and distributed through the Global Fund TB Grant, an international private-public partnership which provides resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

3. Yes.
4. No. Note that there is no power supply apart from solar power for lights, radio and refrigerating vaccines.
5. Yes. A sputum microscopy service is operating with a microscope.
6. No. AusAID officers did not travel to Boigu. AusAID staff accompanied the clinical trip to Saibai Island at this time, as patients for handover from Queensland Health attended the Saibai Island clinic. (With limited space on the boats, TB patients and clinical staff were a higher priority than AusAID officers.)
7. Yes. A health radio network in the South Fly region, covering Mabaduan, has been established by AusAID. In addition, AusAID has funded the establishment of a communications office at Daru General Hospital to support the TB program in South Fly. This has included the building of an office and the purchase of communication equipment for the TB team. Funding for an administration officer position and training was included.
8. There is Digicell coverage in Mabaduan. Maslik, Mabaduan's Community health worker, who is acting officer in charge, has a Blackberry provided by AusAID.
9. AusAID has agreed to purchase a boat for South Fly to support TB outreach clinics. This will be a purpose-built powered all-weather catamaran, fitted out to act as an ambulance boat for transferring patients if required. Banana boats will be used until the new boat arrives.

Question No. 7

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

AusAID's focus is on inpatient (isolation wards etc) but 95% of this work is in the community – outline what is being done apart from the recruitment/construction, in areas like:

1. X ray
2. Drug facilities and supply
3. Health
4. Tracing
5. Index case filing
6. Directly observed therapy
7. Monitoring for outcomes

Answer:

1. AusAID is to provide a new fixed overhead x-ray unit for the Radiology Department at Daru General Hospital.

2. TB drugs in PNG are funded through the Global Fund TB Grant, an international private-public partnership which provides resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. In addition, the supply of 'second line' drugs used to treat drug resistant strains of TB in Western Province has been secured with the assistance of AusAID and Queensland Health.

More broadly, AusAID is currently delivering essential drugs and medical supplies to all of the almost 3000 aid posts and health clinics in PNG, based on the PNG essential drug list. AusAID is in negotiation with PNG's National Department of Health about a program of medical supply reform.

3. In 2011-12, Australia will provide \$59 million to strengthen PNG's health system to deliver services across the country. Support will include provision of drugs and medical supplies, training for health workers, including midwives, and immunisation of children. A further \$35 million will support HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, counselling and treatment services.

In Western Province, the Australian Government has worked with the Western Provincial Administration to develop a comprehensive plan for public health management of TB in the South Fly District. In addition to recruitment and infrastructure activities, AusAID is providing support for outreach services to villages along the South Fly coast, a pilot incentive scheme to improve patients completing TB medication, training for community members to support TB treatment in communities, training for laboratory staff in Daru in diagnosis of TB, and continuing support to increase laboratory diagnostic capacity.

Medical supplies are currently being delivered to aid posts and health centres in Western Province. In the first distribution round over 130 health facilities were visited.

AusAID provides funding for HIV interventions in Western Province, including HIV testing and treatment, to the Catholic Diocese in Daru through the Catholic AIDS Office. Western Province also receives support from AusAID through the national Tingim Laip program aimed at changing behaviour of those at risk.

AusAID funded a May 2011 scoping mission to examine the needs and options for water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion in the South Fly District of Western Province. The PNG Health Steering Committee will determine next steps in responding to the resulting report.

4. Contact tracing of individuals diagnosed with TB, where the personal contacts of TB patients are monitored, is less relevant in countries such as PNG where there is a high prevalence of TB. Public health approaches are required to reduce the prevalence of TB including ensuring robust community treatment support. The new TB communication officer will assist in a public health approach by ensuring that all South Fly TB patients are monitored and take their treatment for the required time.

5. PNG health facilities, including in Western Province, use the internationally recognised information system for TB.
6. The PNG National TB Program and Global Fund TB Grant are designed to support the implementation of DOTS (directly-observed treatment, short-course). Daru has a well-established system of community treatment supporters, and additional volunteers to fill this role are being recruited and trained by the Government of PNG.

AusAID's support for TB treatment in Western Province aligns with DOTS. AusAID is also piloting an incentive scheme for patients to take their daily medications. AusAID is in discussions with non-government organisations to expand community treatment support across South Fly.

7. Performance is measured at all strategy, program and activity levels. This includes all projects undertaken in the southern part of the Western Province.

Question No. 8

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

What have been the benefits to the people of the Solomon Islands of the \$97,935,711.72 Provision of Services to the RAMSI Law and Justice Sector Program implemented by GRM in the Solomon Islands between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2011? (<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=BBC60139-D302-0981-ECDF263D235E80B3>).

Answer:

From 2006-2011, GRM managed the Law and Justice Sector Program in Solomon Islands. This contract was awarded through an open tender. This Program has delivered improvements in essential legal services to Solomon Islanders. For example:

- there is a more effective and accessible justice sector. From 2009 to 2010:
 - High Court civil case disposals increased from 133 to 310 matters
 - Local Court (land) case disposals increased from 4 to 8 matters and Customary Land Appeal Court increased from 0 to 21 matters
 - Magistrates' Court circuits increased from 20 to 31 and High Court circuits increased from 0 in 2009 to 6 circuits in 2010
- improvement of court services is demonstrated by the reduction of remand times. Average remand times are now less than 5 months, compared with over 12 months in 2004-2005.
- all staff in Correctional Services Solomon Islands are now trained in human rights and fair treatment of prisoners.

- forty-four tension trials (matters associated with the ethnic tensions) are complete and another twelve are making their way through the courts.

More broadly, the Program has helped to restore peace and security in Solomon Islands since the 1998-2003 tensions, including through:

- increased staff capacity, especially in court management, budgeting, finance, corrections management and legal skills to build a law and justice sector that is increasingly sustainable over time;
- a new Correctional Services Act that for the first time allows Solomon Island women to work in correctional centres alongside their male colleagues;
- translation services that ensure those who cannot speak English or Solomons Pidjin can speak in court with confidence, knowing their statements are being accurately represented; and
- an update of eighteen legislative or regulatory instruments, including the Evidence Act, the Civil Procedure Rules and the Environmental and Wildlife regulations so they better reflect contemporary life in Solomon Islands.

Question No. 9

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

What is the total value of all contracts AusAID has granted to GRM in the Solomon Islands since the RAMSI intervention?

Answer:

\$235 million (from 2003-2011).

Question No. 10

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

On October 4 this year Charles Tapp, the senior advisor for the Global Partnership for Education, wrote on The Development Policy Blog about the challenges facing the large scale increase in aid to Indonesia. Firstly Mr Tapp spoke of the need to address program consolidation and selectivity with new programs, lest our aid to Indonesia become “inefficient”.

1. What measures are you taking to ensure that as our aid increases, inefficient programs don't continue and future programs are selected on merit?
2. How do you determine they are worthy?
3. Have you identified any that are not efficient? If so, what are you going to do with them?

Answer:

1. As outlined in the Australian Government's response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, a 'value for money' perspective—one that balances effectiveness, efficiency and economy in decision-making—will

drive improvements across the aid program. This approach focuses on results and returns for poor people, rather than just input costs. In line with the Agency policy, the Indonesia program will continue to consolidate its aid projects by moving towards fewer, larger programs. From 2010 to 2011, the number of AusAID initiatives in Indonesia was reduced from 110 to 67.

2. The aid program is subject to regular external oversight by several bodies, both domestic and international, that evaluate performance and quality against Australian and global standards. AusAID's Quality Reporting System (QRS) measures the quality of activities through mandatory annual reporting. Aid activities also undergo regular independent evaluations that complement the QRS, including Independent Progress Reports and Independent Completion Reports.
3. AusAID has not identified any activities as 'inefficient'. The Australian aid program is largely designed in partnership with the Indonesian Government. New programs are subject to robust design and quality processes before implementation which helps ensure that programs that are not efficient are not funded. As recommended in the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, AusAID is examining ways to consolidate smaller initiatives to streamline project administration.

Question No. 11

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Secondly Tapp talks about commitment to effectiveness ("Mixed and no coordination of disparate efforts.") He cites complaints regarding a lack of Australian internal government coordination and multiple approaches to aid and activities which distracts and hampers Indonesian officials.

- a) Given the huge increase in aid to Indonesia what steps are in place to address this?
- b) How are projects selected?
- c) What happens if they fall outside the country strategy?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government is taking steps to improve existing coordination mechanisms. Australia will manage increases to the aid program by finalising a four-year, whole-of-aid budget strategy and policy framework as part of the 2012-13 Budget. The Indonesia program will be included in this strategy. The strategy will bring together the aid plans of AusAID and other whole of government partners that spend aid funding and outline key objectives and the way these will be reported.
- b) In order for projects to be selected, they must be agreed between the Government of Australia and the Government of Indonesia. In practice this means they are designed jointly to achieve the priorities outlined in the Australia Indonesia Partnership Country Strategy 2008-13, namely:
 - a. Sustainable growth and economic management

- b. Investing in people
 - c. Democracy, justice and good governance, and
 - d. Safety and peace
- c) The Australian aid program is designed in close collaboration with the Indonesian Government. New programs are subject to robust design and quality processes before implementation which helps ensure that ideas or proposals that do not align with agreed priorities are not funded.

Question No. 12

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

Can you provide an overview of the Indonesian “country strategy”?

Answer:

The Australia Indonesia Partnership Country Strategy 2008-13 can be found on the AusAID website at: <http://www.aid.gov.au/country/aipstrategy.cfm>

Question No. 13

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

Have any projects been refused or turned down for funding in Indonesia?

Answer:

Yes. AusAID regularly receives unsolicited proposals for aid funding. Many are turned down or redirected to competitive grant processes such as:

The Public Sector Linkages Program:

http://www.aid.gov.au/business/other_opps/pslp.cfm

or the Human Rights Small Grants Scheme:

http://www.aid.gov.au/business/other_opps/humanrights_scheme.cfm.

Question No. 14

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Tapp further says that AusAID staff tend to be “remarkably tolerant of substandard performance”. What is he referring to and what will be done to check on the performance of our dollar committed in Indonesia?

Answer:

The comments refer to AusAID’s engagement with multilateral organisations.

The Australian Government has a number of performance motoring mechanisms of multilateral organizations and is taking steps to strengthen them further. In response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, the Australian Government committed to undertaking an assessment of its key multilateral development partners. That assessment is currently underway and will develop a global multilateral ratings system. The team conducting the assessment has visited Indonesia to seek input on the performance of multilateral organisations. Future support for multilateral organisations will be guided by the outcome of the multilateral assessment.

Question No. 15

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

Mr Tapp speaks of evolution of program not of country strategy. This theme was echoed in the ANAO report in Tertiary Assistance and scholarship. Are you able to provide a specific whole of country strategy approach for the \$558 million dollars in 2011/2012 budget?

Answer:

The 2011-12 Budget for the Indonesia program is guided by the strategic framework in the Australia Indonesia Partnership Country Strategy 2008-13. The strategy can be found on the AusAID website at: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/aipstrategy.cfm>

Question No. 16

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Can you provide a breakdown of all projects currently being funded in Indonesia and how they fit into the country strategy?

Answer:

A breakdown of projects being funded in Indonesia can be found on the AusAID website at: www.ausaid.gov.au/country/indonesia/aid-activities.cfm

Question No. 17

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Tapp's seventh area of concern is the volume of paperwork reports and processes in AusAID. Reporting and compliance he says is taking the place of proper risk management "staff are simply not spending their time on activities that really matter to the effective implementation and delivery of the aid program."

- a) Can you make a comment on this and tell us what are the reporting activities that prevent the efficient delivery of our aid to Indonesia?
- b) What reports does the department require from field workers in each country?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government agreed with the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness recommendation that corporate reform efforts within AusAID should be accelerated to promote a culture geared towards delivering results and enhancing productivity, especially by streamlining business processes and reducing paperwork. The Agency is identifying where efficiencies can be made within business processes, approvals and administration while retaining sufficient checks and balances to ensure accountability and strong program performance.
- b) Implementing partners (such as private sector contractors, civil society organisations, and Indonesian government agencies) who work in the field are required to submit reports in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation requirements in the contract or grant agreement relating to their activity.

Question No. 18

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) Can you tell us how many staff are stationed in Indonesia?
- b) Where are they located?
- c) What are their pay rates broken down by position and by what they do? (we are looking for a breakdown of field workers versus office workers.)

Answer:

- a) AusAID currently has 177 staff directly employed in Indonesia: 41 Australian Public Service (APS) staff and 136 locally engaged staff.
- b) AusAID currently has 174 staff located in Jakarta. Three of those AusAID staff are co-located within Indonesian government ministries. Three staff are based outside Jakarta – one each in Mataram, Makassar and Surabaya.
- c) AusAID does not break down staff by ‘field worker’ and ‘office worker’ categories as the majority of staff are involved in both office functions and activity monitoring. AusAID staff plan, manage and oversight the aid program and the people who deliver aid activities ‘in the field’ on behalf of AusAID are largely from our implementing partners, such as private sector contractors, civil society organisations, and Indonesian government agencies.

AusAID’s APS staff are paid according to AusAID Enterprise Agreement. Locally engaged staff are paid according to Indonesia based salaries.

Question No. 19

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

Considering the many constraints in East Timor on the public sector, what benefits has the \$41,999,938.03 contract implemented by GRM focussed on building the public sector capacity had in that country had on:

1. Staff training,
2. Staff employment,
3. Staff retention, and
4. Staff remuneration.

What were the aims of this project, what sectors did it target, was this developed in conjunction with the aims of East Timor government?

Answer:

Since 2006, AusAID's Public Sector Capacity Development Program (the Program) has been helping to strengthen East Timor's public service so that it functions more accountably, effectively and with integrity. Implemented by GRM, with a contract value of \$42.8 million over 2006-2012, the Program has achieved the following results:

1. *Staff training:*
 - Since 2009, the Program has supported the Institute of Public Administration (the Institute) to train over 1,600 Timorese civil servants, enhancing their skills in public administration, time management, customer service, file management and senior leadership. The Program also supported the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management to deliver training to district officers.
 - The Program is working with the Institute to roll-out an administration training package to staff responsible for internal audit. All of East Timor's 200 auditors will receive this training by June 2012.
 - The Program has strengthened the Institute and other government agencies' training capacity, including through the accreditation of 65 Timorese trainers across government.
 - Since 2007, the Program has provided scholarships to 19 people from government agencies to study courses in health, law, agricultural sciences, and business administration in Australia.
2. *Staff employment:*
 - The Program assisted in establishing the Civil Service Commission (the Commission) in 2008 to lead civil service reform. During 2010-11, the Program supported the Commission to convert around 13,000 temporary civil service positions to permanent positions.
 - The Program also worked with the Commission to run a Government Graduate Internship Pilot. In the first phase, it successfully placed and supported five returning scholarship graduates in the civil service.
3. *Staff retention:*
 - One of the challenges to staff retention in East Timor is the inconsistent conditions in different parts of the civil service. The Program has supported

the Commission to seek changes to laws to make leave and performance evaluation more consistent. It has also developed policies across government governing scholarships and study assistance.

4. *Staff remuneration:*

- The Program has supported the Commission to establish policies to govern allowances across the government to improve consistency in remuneration.

The **aim of the Program** is a sustainable and effective system of public administration for the delivery of high quality services to the Timorese people. Building the capacity of East Timor's national institutions is key to improving living standards in East Timor.

- Health workers, for example, cannot provide care for their patients if there is no bureaucracy to procure drugs and other medical supplies.
- Children cannot get a quality education if teachers are not well trained, or do not turn up to work because they don't get paid.

The Program **targets** core civil service agencies, including the Civil Service Commission, the Institute of Public Administration, and the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management, but it has a broader impact.

- The training program implemented through the Institute, for example, provides training to civil servants across the government.
- The Program is also supporting the Commission to develop a network of human resources practitioners across government to improve the consistency of human resources management.
- The Program provides an adviser to the Office of the Prime Minister to support the government's administrative reform agenda, and an adviser in the National Directorate for Aid Effectiveness to better align aid with East Timor's national priorities.

The Program supports the **aims of the East Timor Government**, as expressed in its Strategic Development Plan, to build a professional, capable and responsive civil service.

- The Program was created in consultation with the East Timor Government in 2006. The East Timor Government and the AusAID are jointly responsible for key decision making and setting the strategic direction of the program.
- The Program's priorities are approved by a Program Management Group, which includes high level representation from the Government of East Timor.

Question No. 20

Senator Kroger asked in writing

1. Has AusAID received a request or approach from the Australian Livestock Exporters Council (ALEC) seeking financial support to fund an upgrade to overseas abattoir facilities?
2. Is AusAID aware of ALEC contracting any Minister or department to discuss this?

3. Have any meeting been held between departments to discuss the feasibility of foreign aid being used to improve animal welfare practices in any of Australia's live export markets?

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.
3. AusAID was consulted in the preparation of the Government's livestock export reforms. Further questions should be referred to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Question No. 21

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

1. How much money has been directed to the Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre?
2. Have any investigation been conducted into these allegations?
3. Is funding still continuing to this drug treatment centre?
4. How many other drug treatment centres is AusAID funding in Laos
5. Are you funding drug rehabilitation clinics anywhere else around the world?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government provided assistance (US\$9,300 to establish library facilities for the use of the patients) to the Somsanga drug treatment and rehabilitation centre in Vientiane in 2009-2010 under the Direct Aid Program which is administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
2. Australian Embassy staff in Vientiane have visited Somsanga Centre on several occasions with other donors, most recently in September this year, and have not seen any evidence of human rights abuses at Somsanga.
3. No.
4. None.
5. No.

Question No. 22

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

An article in the Manila Times on 7 October reported that billions of pesos of AusAID money were missing from the BEAM project.

1. Are you aware of these allegations?

2. Is there any truth to them?
3. Could you please provide an update on this project?
4. What investigation where undertaken?
5. Is there ongoing scrutiny of this project?

Answer:

1. Yes. We are aware of the newspaper article on 7 October which made a range of statements about an AusAID program. The journalist claims that the money went missing from funds released to the Department of Education for the BEAM-ARMM program. This is impossible as no funding has been released because the project has not commenced.
2. No.
3. The BEAM-ARMM project has been designed in consultation with partners including the Department of Education in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao as well as the national government. We are waiting for final internal approval by the Philippines Government to begin the implementation process.
4. See response to question 2.
5. Yes.

Question No. 23

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

1. In AusAID able to provide an update on the situation surrounding Cambodian Government crackdown on NGO's?
2. Please provide an overview of our Cambodian Strategy?
3. Does this interfere with our Cambodian Strategy?
4. Which project in Cambodia will be at risk due to the NGO's crackdown?

Answer:

1. The Cambodian Government has suspended one NGO until December 2011. Two other NGOs were warned for using information the Government believed was untrue in a media campaign.

The Cambodian Government is finalising the drafting of a new law on NGOs. The Australian Government remains concerned about the potential impact of this law. The Australian Government has expressed these concerns through both direct representations by our Ambassador and officials in Phnom Penh and in writing.

The fourth draft of the law has been returned to the Ministry of Interior from the Council of Ministers for further review.

2. Australia's strategy in Cambodia, 'Australia's strategic approach to aid in Cambodia 2010 – 2015' is published on the AusAID website <http://www.aid.gov.au/country/eastasia.cfm>. It has four sectoral objectives:
 - Reduce rural poverty
 - Improve health services
 - Upgrade infrastructure for growth, trade and travel
 - Promote access to justice
3. We are not able to comment on the potential impact of a law that is not yet final.
4. No NGOs funded by AusAID have been subject to suspension or warning by the Government of Cambodia. The Cambodian Government continues to work collaboratively with AusAID and NGOs, particularly in the health sector and in disability rehabilitation.

Question No. 24

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

In 2010 an interim statement was released titled *Australia's strategic approach to aid in Burma*. The final strategy was listed for release in December 2011. Is this timeframe going to be met?

Answer:

No. The Government decided in December 2010 that the finalisation of all outstanding Country Strategies would be subject to the release of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness and the Government's response. Further consultations within Government and with partners are continuing.

Question No. 25

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

AusAID website states 'Burma is among the poorest countries in South East Asia with almost one third of its 50 Million people living in poverty' when then was there a reduction in the ODA allocation in the 2010/2012 budget to Burma page 5 on the Ministerial Statement shows 2010/2011 \$ 49.0 million and in 2011/2012 \$47.6 million? What decision drove the decrease in assistance to Burma?

Answer:

The final official figure for 2010-11 expenditure was \$48.6 million. Australian development assistance expenditure to Burma rose substantially to this level from \$29.8 million in 2009-10.

- a. While the current forecast is \$47.6m for this financial year, we expect the final figure to be higher after our contributions to World Food

Program globally (some of which will in turn go to Burma) are finalised later this financial year.

- b. There was no decision to decrease the budget. Rather, assistance remained relatively stable for two financial years while the program consolidated after a significant increase in expenditure in 2010-11. Australia is on track to meet its commitment to increase aid to Burma to around \$50 million by 2012-13.

Question No. 26

Senator Eggleston asked in writing:

It was reported that TB & HIV rates were increasing in Burma.

1. Can AusAID advise what it knows of these rates per capita in Burma?
2. What HIV/TB programs are underway in Burma?

Answer:

1. HIV prevalence in Burma has gone down from 0.63% of the population in 2007 to 0.60% in 2010. Official TB rates have increased from 169/100,000 in 2007 to 597/100,000 in 2009. However, this increase in reported TB prevalence is due to under-reporting in the past, coupled with improved detection methods recently introduced.
2. There are three key programs in Burma that AusAID funds:
 - a. The Three Diseases Fund (3DF): Australia is providing \$18.5 million over 2006 – 2012 to help combat HIV, TB and Malaria. With Australia's support, 3DF has provided treatment to 127,000 TB patients, distributed 47 million condoms and 7.5 million needles to prevent HIV and provided antiretroviral treatment to almost 16,000 people, as well as distributed or treated 1.4 million bed nets to protect families from malaria.
 - b. HIV AIDS Asia Regional Program (HAARP): Australia is providing \$8.2 million to Burma for HIV prevention. Between 2009 and 2011, HAARP helped to prevent the transmission of HIV by Intravenous Drug Use by training 1,753 law enforcement officers in HIV harm reduction law and policy.
 - c. Periodic Funding for Humanitarian Assistance to Burma (PFHAB): Australia is providing \$10 million over 2006 – 2012 through this program. Approximately \$1.9 million is targeted to HIV programs. This has included work through the Burnet Institute to improve the quality of, and extend the number of Burmese people able to access, HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services.

Question No. 27

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. How many AusAID staff are located in Burma?
2. Are there any plans to increase this?

Answer:

1. There are currently eight AusAID staff in Rangoon: three are Australian Public Service (APS) officers in diplomatic positions and five are locally recruited.
2. Yes. Subject to budget allocation processes, AusAID proposes to increase staff in order to effectively manage an increasing bilateral aid program.

Question No. 28

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

- a) Does AusAID have any guidelines that it follows when it engages with infrastructure projects in Cambodia, especially involuntary resettlement?
- b) Do you believe that the ADB has met its own resettlement guidelines in Cambodia, given ample reporting to the contrary of NGO's such as Bridges Without Borders Cambodia and Sahmakum Teang Tnaut and as reported by Lateline and the Sydney Morning Herald?
- c) Was the initial resettlement advisor funded by the Australian Government and if so can you provide copies of their reports?
- d) When was AusAID made aware that there were problems in resettlement programs linked with the Cambodian Railway Project?

Answer:

- a) Yes. AusAID guidelines for resettlement have been in place since 1996.
- b) The Funding Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Railway in Cambodia project is between the ADB and the Cambodian Government and specifies that the Cambodian Government is responsible for implementing resettlement in accordance with ADB's policy on involuntary resettlement. The Cambodian Government has stated that it is committed to fully implementing the ADB policy.

Implementation has not always been handled by the Government of Cambodia in accordance with ADB guidelines. The ADB (and AusAID) have been working with the Government of Cambodia at both senior and working levels to improve its ability to implement the agreed ADB policy.

- c) The Australian Government has made a financial contribution to the overall project through a grant to the ADB. The ADB is responsible for the management of funds, including on granting to the Government of Cambodia for the contracting and management of advisers to the project.

AusAID provided funding for the initial resettlement adviser under the project but does not have direct contractual relationships with individuals employed in this capacity, including the initial adviser. A large number of project reports are available on the ADB and AusAID websites.

- d) In agreeing to co-finance the project, AusAID was aware from the outset that resettling large numbers of people would be complex. We work closely with the ADB to monitor the implementation of the agreed resettlement Plan and to enhance the Cambodian Government's capacity to manage resettlement.

Question No. 29

Senator Kroger asked in writing:

The [aid] review recommends discontinuing aid programs to India and China. Are these two countries aware of this recommendation and approached the Government or department about this?

Answer:

Yes. Australian officials have met with both Governments to discuss the Australian Government's decision.

Question No. 30

Senator Cash asked in writing

Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

How does the Government justify spending nearly \$100 million on this program when on its own figures one in three women over the age of 15 in Australian experience violence and the total budget for the women's portfolio is far less than that amount?

Answer:

Other portfolio agencies, including the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Attorney General's Department and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship fund and manage programs relating to violence against women in Australia. State and Territory governments are primarily responsible for the delivery of services to assist women who have been victims of domestic violence.

The 2011-12 Federal Budget provided additional funding of \$96.4 million (\$8.338 million in 2011-12) over four years for initiatives to eliminate violence against women and to support women affected by violence in developing countries. This funding is administered by AusAID. Further detail on this funding is provided in response to Question 125.

This funding recognises that reducing violence against women is crucial to achieving equality between men and women and delivering good development outcomes. Globally, one in three women experience sexual violence in their lifetime. In some Pacific countries, two out of three women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

Violence against women and the fear of violence has significant impacts on development. Violence against women affects families and communities and limits

women's participation in social, political and economic life. It also puts a strain on health care, social, policing and justice systems. The World Bank's *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development* identifies violence against women as a significant barrier to women's decision-making and their social and economic participation.

Question No. 31

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

On October 19 Nine MSN reported that 247 adviser positions were cut.

- a) Could you please tell us by country where were these 247 advisers based?
- b) How much were they being paid (individually and collectively)?
- c) What were they doing? Advising on what exactly?
- d) Who is performing their role now or were their roles not required?

Answer:

- a) The 19 October 2011 Nine MSN article was referring to the recently released Adviser Stocktake Report 2011, which is available on the internet at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/adviser-stocktake-report.pdf>. The Adviser Stocktake Report monitors progress against reforms introduced by AusAID to ensure that advisers offer clear development effectiveness and value for money.

Figure 3 on page 6 of the report provides a geographical breakdown of the reductions in adviser numbers (both long- and short-term) from early 2010 to mid-2011.

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

Of the 247 adviser positions noted in the Report, 155 were long-term and 92 were short-term positions. The average monthly remuneration package for long-term advisers working prior to the introduction of the Adviser Remuneration Framework (ARF) on 15 February 2011 was \$20,295, while advisers engaged under the terms of the ARF received \$15,177. The average daily fee rate for short-term advisers working prior to the introduction of the ARF was \$1,247, which decreased to \$707 for advisers engaged under the terms of the ARF.

- c) Advisory assignments can range from providing short-term technical expertise on a discrete task – for example the design of a new health program or drafting of legislative amendments – to working closely with counterparts over a period of several years to build local skills and expertise which will improve service delivery – for example training health workers, public administrators and educators. Recently completed advisory inputs include a Food Security adviser in East Timor, who worked on the development of a food security policy; and nurse trainers in Vanuatu who trained Ni-Vanuatu nursing students.

- d) In some cases the advisory position had already achieved the results required and further advisory support has not been necessary. In other cases, the priority we and partner governments have attached to particular positions has been reassessed and funding is being reinvested in higher priority areas; or it has been agreed that development outcomes could be more effectively achieved through an alternate form of development assistance and so the position has been terminated as new activities commenced.

Question No. 32

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Were there any changes to any of the portfolio's tenders in 2010-11? Detail any changes.

Answer:

After an Approach to Market is released via AusTender, AusAID has the ability to make any corrections or clarifications through the addendum process. Information on the number of addenda issued by AusAID is not available as AusTender does not track the number of addenda for each agency.

All addenda issued through AusTender by AusAID were consistent with the addendum process as defined in the Approach to Market documents.

Question No. 33

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Does each department and agency stand by its current tenders on the Austenders website? Have any changes or corrections been made for any tenders advertised on to Government Tenders website (www.tenders.gov.au) for tenders advertised this financial year? Explain. Are up to date with reporting requirements?

Answer:

All tenders currently listed on the AusTender website represent a true account of all open sourced Approaches to Market currently being undertaken by the Agency.

After an Approach to Market is released via AusTender, AusAID has the ability to make any corrections or clarifications through the addendum process. Information on the number of addenda issued by AusAID is not available as AusTender does not track the number of addenda for each agency.

All addenda issued through AusTender by AusAID were consistent with the addendum process as defined in the Approach to Market documents.

Outside of the Annual Procurement Plan, there are no additional reporting requirements for tenders on the AusTender website. AusAID's reporting requirements

are up-to-date with the Annual Procurement Plan for the financial year 2011-12 published on AusTender on 29 June 2011.

Question No. 34

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

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

Answer:

The Annual Procurement Plan is published by financial year. For the 2010 calendar year the planned consultancies were published in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 Annual Procurement Plans. These are available through the AusTender website at www.tenders.gov.au.

There are three (3) planned Approaches to Market for consultancy services for the remainder of the 2011 calendar year. These approaches to market will be through an open source procurement method and have been published in AusAID's 2011-12 Annual Procurement Plan.

The following table provides a summary of the subject matter for the three planned consultancies. We are unable to provide an estimated cost or duration for the consultancy as AusTender does not require this information for reporting purposes and it may compromise the tender process to release planned expenditure publicly. In each case, the name of the consultant is not yet known.

APP Reference	Description	Planned Date of Approach (FY 2010-11)
AA1112 – 5D	Corporate: Business Continuity Specialist	Quarter 2
AA1112 – 8D	Corporate: Design & Project Management Consultants	Quarter 1
AA112 – 23D	Corporate: Strategic Planning	Quarter 2

Question No. 35

Senator Fawcett asked on notice

What were the selection criteria used for 50 students from Palestine chosen to come to Australia to study systems of law?

Answer

- Australia is providing 50 scholarships to Palestinians in the fields of law and public sector management over the next five years. Around 25 scholarships will

help build the capacity of Palestinian university law schools, and around 25 will help build the governance capacity of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

- In a publicly open, merit-based selection process, the following criteria were used to shortlist and select both PA and law school candidates for a conditional ADS offer for study in 2012:
 - Previous academic performance;
 - English language ability at an acceptable level (acceptable levels are determined independently by Australian universities and candidates assessed by a recognised authority – the British Council);
 - Quality of written application and ability to submit a high quality rationale of how the chosen field of study would meet Palestinian legal development needs or PA governance development;
 - Demonstration at interview of conceptual and strategic thinking skills, resourcefulness, cultural and self awareness, intelligence and maturity, awareness of the challenges of studying in a second language and living in a foreign country;
 - Articulation of a high quality study plan and explanation of how the candidate would re-integrate into the Palestinian legal profession or the PA.
- In addition a key criterion for Palestinian Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) applicants in the field of law was existing, or an offer of, employment with one of the Palestinian university law schools. For candidates in public sector management field, an important criterion was employment with the PA.
 - These criteria were specified in the *'Development Scholarships – Palestinian Territories- Country Profile'* which was circulated to Palestinian law schools and within the PA, provided to attendees at an Australian Representative Office scholarships information session, and posted on the scholarships section of the AusAID website.
- Candidates must also meet DIAC criteria for obtaining Australian student visas.

Question No. 36

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Funding for 50 scholarships for Palestinian postgraduates:

1. Can you tell us the total value of these 50 scholarships?
2. Will there be any further scholarships awarded?
3. Can you detail who were the recipients of the scholarships?
4. How does this number compare to the numbers of scholarships awarded to Palestinians in 2008/2009/2010?
5. How does this number compare to recognised countries around the world?

Answer

1. Approximately \$8.4m (based on 25 Masters and 25 PhDs) over five years.
2. AusAID has no current plans to expand its Palestinian Territories scholarship program beyond the 50 scholarships already committed.
3. For privacy reasons, AusAID does not publicly release names of scholarship recipients.

4. Scholarships were offered for the first time in 2011, for study commencing in 2012. There are ten Palestinians starting in 2012.
5. The Palestinian scholarship program comprises 0.47 per cent of AusAID's total long-term awards. Ten awards were offered in 2011 to Palestinians for 2012 commencement. Our top programs include Indonesia (425), Vietnam (270), Papua New Guinea (161) and Philippines (133).

Question No. 37

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

What is the estimated amount of Australian contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) in each of the following years:

- a) 2011-12
- b) 2012-13
- c) 2013-14?

Answer

Contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria are estimated to be:

- a) \$10 million in 2011-12
- b) \$70 million in 2012-13
- c) \$100 million in 2013-14.

Question No. 38

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

Is the Australian Government considering hosting the mid-term replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in early 2012?

Answer

No. The Australian Government will not host a Global Fund mid-term replenishment review meeting in early 2012.

Question No. 39

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

When is the Australian Government likely to make a decision on how much it would supplement the pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria announced in October 2010 (\$210 million)?

Answer

Australia's current pledge to the Global Fund is for 2011 to 2013. Any commitment beyond 2013 will be considered by the Australian Government closer to the end of that period.

Question No. 40

Senator Abetz asked on notice

Can you provide an explanation of whether figure 6.2 in the Micah Challenge Halve poverty by 2015 WASH document is correct? If not, why not? If some of the information is correct, provide an explanation.

Answer

Micah Challenge's figure is incorrect. In 2011-12, health spending (including water and sanitation) will account for an estimated 17 per cent of net ODA. Net ODA does not include departmental costs and unallocated contingency reserve funding and is the standard calculation method used in AusAID's budget statement. Future health commitments are subject to the annual budget process and any additional expenditure in response to unforeseen humanitarian emergencies.

Question No. 41

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

A Four Corners program revealed Australia's bid book and technical inspection, which together cost \$10.38 million, was far more expensive than the bid book of at least one other bidding nation.

- a) Can you provide us with details of this?
- b) How does it fit into the overall AusAID aims?
- c) Is AusAID able to provide a breakdown of the dollars spent associated with this bid?
- d) Does AusAID have any plans to fund bids for any other international or national sporting showcases?
- e) What mechanisms are in place to prevent this recurring?

Answer:

- a, b, c and e) AusAID did not provide funds to support the Football Federation of Australia's World Cup bid or any of the components of it including the bid book or technical inspection.
- d) No.

Question No. 42

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

The panel identified that once global programs are included approximately 12% per cent of the total aid program budget is spent in Africa. Can you provide details of spending in Africa by country by project?

Answer:

Please refer to Attachment A.

Question No. 43

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Can AusAID please advise what money it has given specifically to Libya to date since 2007 by financial year?

Answer

AusAID has provided the following funding specifically to Libya since 2007:

Financial Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
Humanitarian assistance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33.5 million	\$7.6 million	\$41.1m
Repayable students loan	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1.5 million	\$1.5m

Details of Australia's humanitarian assistance to support people affected by the conflict in Libya are provided in response to Question No. 45.

Question No. 44

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

What is the Libyan country strategy?

Answer

Australia does not have a bilateral aid program in Libya and therefore no country strategy has been developed. AusAID funding for Libya has been humanitarian assistance only to date, in response to the crisis which emerged in February 2011. Libya will be included in a Middle East and North Africa regional strategy, due for completion in 2012.

Question No. 45

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Please detail the amounts spent on emergency relief and development assistance money. Please provide a breakdown of where and to which projects this money was allocated.

Answer:

Australia is providing \$41.1 million in humanitarian assistance to support people affected by the conflict in Libya. The following table provides a breakdown of this assistance:

Organisation	Amount
<p>Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</p> <p>To support the provision of shelter, protection and emergency assistance to displaced people in Libya and Tunisia and to support communities hosting Libyans who fled conflict areas.</p>	\$9 million
<p>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</p> <p>To support the provision of urgent medical care for the wounded, distribution of humanitarian supplies, both inside Libya and at the border camps, provide food and water in Tripoli and help remove explosive ordnance and unexploded devices from civilian areas so people can return home safely.</p>	\$8.1 million
<p>International Organisation for Migration (IOM)</p> <p>To support the evacuation of migrants and vulnerable people from the conflict and repatriation of third country nationals. This includes the evacuation of over 2,000 people from Misrata at the height of the conflict when the city was being shelled and road access was cut.</p>	\$6.5 million
<p>World Food Programme (WFP)</p> <p>To support the provision of food aid in Libya and at border camps and the provision of logistics for all humanitarian agencies working in Libya.</p>	\$6 million
<p>United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</p> <p>To support the protection of women and children, provision of water, sanitation and hygiene needs in border camps, and to provide education support in Libya.</p>	\$3 million
<p>World Health Organization (WHO)</p> <p>To support the provision of urgently needed vaccines, medicines, medical supplies and equipment to meet immediate health needs in Misrata and Benghazi.</p>	\$2.5 million
<p>International Medical Corps (IMC)</p> <p>To support the provision of physical and mental health care for conflict-affected populations, including medical supplies and personnel to support permanent and mobile primary health facilities and hospitals throughout Libya. IMC is conducting life-saving surgery, supporting medical evacuations of war-wounded persons, training health care staff and providing gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support and training.</p>	\$2.5 million
<p>United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)</p> <p>To support mine action activities in Libya, including mapping, marking and removal of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW), as well as mine risk education, through AusAID’s Global Mine Action Program.</p>	\$1.5 million
<p>Turkish Red Crescent</p> <p>To support their work alongside the ICRC and Libyan Red Crescent to deliver essential medical supplies such as hygiene kits, blood bank</p>	\$1 million

equipment and supplies to people in Libya and at the border camps.	
United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UN DPA) To support mediation assistance, transition and post-conflict planning for Libya.	\$0.5 million
Unallocated Funding originally allocated for emergency health activities on the Libya-Tunisia border will be reprogrammed to meet other humanitarian needs as hospital and medical clinics are normalising in these areas.	\$0.5 million
RedR Australia To support the deployment of six humanitarian experts to Egypt and Tunisia to support the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF and UNHCR’s assistance to people fleeing the Libyan conflict.	Supported through AusAID core funding to RedR Australia
Australian Civilian Corps (ACC) Contribution of a Stabilisation Adviser to the UK-led International Stabilisation Response Team (ISRT) planning mission to Libya in May-June 2011.	Supported through AusAID departmental funding
TOTAL	\$41.1 million

Question No. 46

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

It was reported that the Libyan National Transitional Council was seeking \$2.5 billion in aid by the end of August 2011. Did Australia/AusAID provide any money? If not, are we going to?

Answer:

No, Australia did not provide any money directly to the Libyan National Transitional Council and there are no plans to provide direct funding to the Libyan National Transitional Council at this time.

Question No. 47

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Foreign Minister Rudd met Transitional Council Interim Prime Minister Dr Jabril in Abu Dhabi in April 2011 and June 2011. Was there any discussion with the minister’s office following these meetings regarding AusAID spending in Libya?

Answer:

Yes. Following these meetings, AusAID discussed the progress and focus of Australia’s humanitarian assistance to Libya with the Minister’s office.

Question No. 48

Senator Abetz asked on notice

- (a) Can you update the figure from the June 2011 QoN regarding the proportion of APHEDA’s budget contributed by AusAID.
- (b) How is examination of APHEDA’s financial reporting undertaken?

Answer:

- (a) APHEDA has advised that according to its most recent financial audit, AusAID funds comprised 47 per cent (\$3,660,334) of the organisation’s total income of \$7,739,004 in the 2010-11 financial year.
- (b) Each year AusAID receives and examines APHEDA’s audited annual financial statements. In addition, regular (six monthly and annual) financial and activity reports are provided to AusAID for specific APHEDA programs, and these are scrutinised by relevant program officers. As is the case with other AusAID-accredited NGOs, APHEDA is also subject to a five-yearly accreditation review which includes an assessment of the organisation’s management structures, financial systems and risk management.

Question No. 49

Senator Rhiannon asked on notice

1. What is the Australian government's attitude to private Australian companies administering aid in countries where the Defence Force is operating?
2. Can you take on notice the list of the companies, what countries they operate in and the relationship?

Answer:

1. AusAID uses a variety of implementing partners, including in countries where the Australian Defence Force is operating, ranging from NGOs to private contractors to UN agencies and other international government agencies. Partners are selected on who is best placed to deliver on Australia’s aid objectives.
2. The following table details the companies AusAID has engaged to administer aid in these countries:

AFGHANISTAN	AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
AFGHANISTAN	CENTRAL ASIA DEVELOPMENT GROUP
AFGHANISTAN	CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

AFGHANISTAN	GRM INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
AFGHANISTAN	GTZ (DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FUR TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT GMBH)
AFGHANISTAN	IDP EDUCATION PTY LTD
AFGHANISTAN	JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
AFGHANISTAN	LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
AFGHANISTAN	MONASH UNIVERSITY
AFGHANISTAN	MURDOCH UNIVERSITY
AFGHANISTAN	QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
AFGHANISTAN	RMIT INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY
AFGHANISTAN	UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
AFGHANISTAN	WAIS NAEEM ENGINEERING GROUP
IRAQ	COFFEY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD
IRAQ	CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
IRAQ	THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
IRAQ	UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
IRAQ	UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	AMIDEAST - AMERICA - MIDEAST EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING SERVICES
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	CHANNEL RESEARCH SPRL
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	UNSW GLOBAL PTY LIMITED
SOLOMON ISLANDS	ANU ENTERPRISE PTY LIMITED
SOLOMON ISLANDS	AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL
SOLOMON ISLANDS	BDO (NSW-VIC) PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

SOLOMON ISLANDS	CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CIT)
SOLOMON ISLANDS	CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	CHARLES KENDALL & PARTNERS LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	COFFEY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	DATEC SOLOMON ISLAND LIMITED
SOLOMON ISLANDS	DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SA) T/A TAFE SA
SOLOMON ISLANDS	FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SA) T/A FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	GRM INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	M.D.I. INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	MADEC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOLOMON ISLANDS	META-DEVELOPMENT LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP
SOLOMON ISLANDS	PETER BAZELEY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING
SOLOMON ISLANDS	QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	RMIT INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	SOUTH PACIFIC BOARD FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT (SPBEA)
SOLOMON ISLANDS	SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
SOLOMON ISLANDS	THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
SOLOMON ISLANDS	THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

SOLOMON ISLANDS	TRIPLE LINE CONSULTING LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNDP
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	UNSW GLOBAL PTY LIMITED
SOLOMON ISLANDS	URS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON ISLANDS	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (QLD) T/A BRISBANE NORTH INSTITUTE OF TAFE
SUDAN	ETC NEDERLAND BV
TIMOR-LESTE	AID-IT SOLUTIONS PTY LIMITED
TIMOR-LESTE	AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
TIMOR-LESTE	CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY
TIMOR-LESTE	COFFEY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD
TIMOR-LESTE	CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
TIMOR-LESTE	DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SA) T/A TAFE SA
TIMOR-LESTE	FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SA) T/A FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
TIMOR-LESTE	GRM INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
TIMOR-LESTE	I.T. TRANSPORT LTD.
TIMOR-LESTE	IDSS PTY LTD
TIMOR-LESTE	INGRAM, SUE
TIMOR-LESTE	INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD
TIMOR-LESTE	LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
TIMOR-LESTE	MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
TIMOR-LESTE	MONASH UNIVERSITY
TIMOR-LESTE	MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

TIMOR-LESTE	QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
TIMOR-LESTE	RMIT INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD
TIMOR-LESTE	SOROS ASSOCIATES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
TIMOR-LESTE	SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
TIMOR-LESTE	THE TRUSTEE FOR TRUST -SEAVIEW MONTVILLE T/A TRUST -SEAVIEW MONTVILLE
TIMOR-LESTE	THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
TIMOR-LESTE	THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
TIMOR-LESTE	TRANSITION SOLUTIONS GROUP PTY. LTD.
TIMOR-LESTE	UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TIMOR-LESTE	UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
TIMOR-LESTE	VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Question No. 50

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. What plans does AusAID have in place in the event of a troop withdrawal from Afghanistan?
2. Who developed these plans?
3. What plans do you have to guarantee the safety of AusAID workers when this occurs?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has made clear that beyond 2014 Australia has a long-term commitment to Afghanistan and that that commitment will include ongoing development assistance. AusAID is planning a long-term program of development assistance to Afghanistan.
2. AusAID has lead responsibility for the delivery of our aid program to Afghanistan and engages in Whole-of-Government consultation in the design of this program.
3. AusAID activities are only conducted where appropriate security measures are available. This will remain the case beyond 2014.

Question No. 51

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How much money has been spent by AusAID on humanitarian and emergency relief in the financial year to date? Please provide a detailed breakdown by country of where this money was spent.

Answer:

To date, AusAID has provided \$112,735,238 million for humanitarian programs and emergency relief for 2011-12. The breakdown by country of where this money was spent is as follows:

Country	Date	AUD
Horn of Africa- Drought	Jul 11	\$85,000,000
Central African Republic- Insecurity/Civil Unrest	Jul 11	\$1,000,000
Libya – Civil Unrest	Jul 11	\$7,100,000
Yemen – Food Shortages	Aug 11	\$1,500,000
Pakistan - Floods	Jul 11	\$10,800,000
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea – Food Shortages	Aug 11	\$1,500,000
Tuvalu - Drought	Sep 11	\$803,000
Turkey - Earthquake	Oct 11	\$500,000
Philippines - Typhoon	Oct 11	\$1,000,000
Thailand – Floods	Oct 11	\$550,000
Cambodia - Floods	Nov 11	\$1,982,238
Laos – Floods	Nov 11	\$1,000,000
Total		\$112,735,238

Question No. 52

Senator Kroger asked in writing

Some small NGOs have reported that AusAID's accreditation process is demanding and expensive.

1. What is AusAID's response to this and will the process be reviewed so that small NGOs are able to contribute?
2. Has AusAID made any endeavour to speak to affected small NGOs and discussed their individual issues? Is so, when? Is the process being reviewed accordingly? Is so, what changes will be made and when?

Answer:

1. Accreditation is an important 'front-end' risk management tool that allows NGOs to receive ongoing core funding under the AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). NGOs must meet standards regarding their governance structure, Australian identity, organisational systems and philosophies. This ensures that Australian government funding is not used for inappropriate purposes such as partisan political or evangelical work and that NGOs are complying with Government policies relating to matters such as counter-terrorism and child protection.

A number of small NGOs have successfully completed the accreditation process and 10 of the 43 currently accredited NGOs would be considered small. In recent years AusAID has made accreditation more accessible to small NGOs by offering technical assistance to help them with preparing their applications.

The Government's response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness *An Effective Aid Program for Australia*, states that accreditation should be reviewed to consider further means to improve the accreditation process for small NGOs. The Government has also committed to establishing a community grants scheme that would provide support to smaller NGOs without requiring full accreditation.

2. AusAID regularly meets with smaller NGOs, both through open forums and directly, to discuss their issues. AusAID also operates a helpdesk (via phone and e-mail) as another avenue for NGOs to ask questions specific to their individual needs regarding funding opportunities, accreditation and technical assistance.

AusAID works closely with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) in its capacity as a representative for NGOs (of all sizes) working in international development, including high level biannual meetings with the ACFID Executive Committee, and active participation in NGO forums such as the annual ACFID Council, training programs, and quarterly member information forums.

ACFID and NGO member representatives participate in the Committee for Development Cooperation, a consultative body that advises and works with AusAID on accreditation processes and criteria, and on accreditation assessments for individual organisations.

In accordance with the Government's commitment in *An Effective Aid Program for Australia*, AusAID will develop, in consultation with ACFID and individual NGOs, a new Civil Society Engagement Framework. This will set out the Government's approach to working with civil society organisations in Australia and overseas. Consultations on the framework commenced in November 2011 (including discussions with smaller NGOs).

Question No. 53

Senator Kroger asked in writing

Recommendation 21 [of the Aid Review] supports an annual Consultative Forum between AusAID and the Australian Business Community.

- a) When and where will the first meeting be held?
- b) Who will be organising the Forum?
- c) Who will be determining the invitation list to the Business Community and how many will be invited to participate?

Answer:

- a. The first consultative forum will be held in June 2012; the location is yet to be determined.
- b. AusAID will organise the forum with input from the newly established Business Engagement Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, chaired by AusAID, has been set up to guide preparations for the forum and comprises prominent representatives from Australian business, the public sector and civil society, including the 2011 Australian of the Year Simon McKeon.
- c. AusAID will determine the invitation list for the forum with input from the Business Engagement Steering Committee; numbers of participants are yet to be confirmed.

Question No. 54

Senator Kroger asked in writing

Australians Volunteers for International Development (AVID):

- a) How many volunteers are registered?
- b) What geographical areas and sectors are they being deployed to?
- c) How many are currently on assignment?

Answer:

- a. In 2011-12 it is expected that 1,639 volunteers, both ongoing and new, will be funded under AVID.

- b. Volunteers will be deployed to the Pacific, East and South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean. They will be deployed in a wide range of sectors including health, education, disaster management, and agriculture.
- c. As of 1 November 2011 there are 732 volunteers on assignment under the AVID program. It should be noted that volunteer numbers in the field are lower in the period heading into Christmas, as many volunteers finish their assignments during this time and new volunteers are not deployed until after the holidays. We estimate that during 2011-12 there will be a cumulative total of 1639 volunteers including 967 new volunteers.

Question No. 55

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Human Rights Grants Scheme

The OII website advertised that money might be available under this program for persons to undergo gender reassignment.

1. Is AusAID aware of this?
2. Has anyone received money for sex change surgery under this program?

Answer

- 1) The website of Organisation Intersex International (OII) includes a page drawing attention to the HRGS and encouraging OII affiliate organisations to apply for funding.
- 2) No.

Question No. 56

Senator Abetz asked on notice

How much money do we give to the Australian Red Cross?

Answer:

AusAID's partnership with the Australian Red Cross (ARC) comprises a commitment of \$19.92 million in core funding over the period 2010-13, and makes provision for additional financial contributions to support specific disaster response and recovery activities.

So far, in 2011-12 AusAID has provided \$7 million in core funding and \$8.63 million for programs covering disaster response and recovery activities in relation to floods in Pakistan, Vietnam, Central America, Thailand and Cambodia; earthquake in Turkey; conflict in Libya; and for recovery programs in Sudan, Afghanistan, and Cambodia.

Question No. 57

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Latin America and the Caribbean:

The 2011/2012 ministerial budget statement has listed \$48 million to the region. Is AusAID able to itemise which country will be in receipt of funds and how it will be spent?

Answer:

To deliver its aid programs in this region AusAID largely works through regional organisations and international partners plus Australian education institutions.

Of the \$48 million allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean in 2011-12, \$20.7 million has been allocated to the Caribbean and \$27.3 million to Latin America.

In the Caribbean, through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a number of ODA-eligible countries are able to access initiatives offered through Australia’s Caribbean regional aid program. These countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and St Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Cuba and Dominican Republic. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago were previously able to access Australia’s Caribbean aid program activities but from January 2012 will no longer be ODA eligible.

In Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela), AusAID works through regional organisations and international development partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Food Programme and other donor countries such as Germany.

In both Latin America and the Caribbean, countries are eligible for a range of AusAID funded global programs such as the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program, the International Seminar Support Scheme, research proposals, scholarships/fellowships, the Public Sector Linkages Program, volunteer programs and the Human Rights Grants Scheme.

Key sectors supported through these two programs and the estimated allocation for financial year 2011-12 is described in the table below.

Indicative funding allocations across sectors:

	Caribbean	Latin America
AusAID Global Programs	4.3 million	13.7 million
Education/Training	4.8 million	0
Food Security/ Climate Change	3 million	10.5 million
Economic Resilience	1.3 million	1.1 million
Infrastructure, governance, health cooperation & capacity building	7.3 million	2 million
Total 2011-12	20.7 million	27.3 million

Question No. 58

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How much money has AusAID given to the World Wildlife Fund or environmental agencies since 2007 to date?

Answer:

AusAID provided direct funding of A\$2,679,184 to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), including the Australian and international program offices, from the start of the 2006-07 financial year until 11 November 2011. AusAID provided direct funding of A\$15,390,395 to Non-Government Organisations (including WWF) that have environment as a key objective from the start of the 2006-07 financial year to 11 November 2011.

Question No. 59

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How much money did AusAID provide to the WWF for the project in the Ba Delta? Was it a competitive tendering process?

Answer:

AusAID has provided WWF with funding of A\$721,342 for a 2.5-year project in the Ba and Macuata provinces of Fiji. This project commenced in May 2011 and will assist communities in these provinces to adapt to the impacts of climate change by enhancing the resilience of their coastal ecosystems. The project was originally submitted to AusAID for funding through the Community-based Adaptation Activity Grants within the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI). It ranked highly in the competitive assessment process but funding limitations prevented support through this mechanism. Funding for this project was subsequently provided through the Fiji bilateral ICCAI allocation.

Question No. 60

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How much money did the Nature Preservation Foundation Programme receive? What did this project achieve?

Answer:

No organisation or activity of this name is known to have received funding from AusAID.

Question No. 61

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. How was your department/agency consulted in the development of the carbon price package?
2. Is the carbon price package consistent with all of the policies in your department/agency?

Answer:

1. AusAID was represented on an interdepartmental committee that met regularly during the period of operation of the Multi-Party Committee on Climate Change.
2. Yes.

Question No. 62

Senator Kroger asked in writing

What are the procedures for AusAID staff security clearances?

Answer:

The Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA) conducts security clearances for all AusAID Australian Public Service staff. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) conducts security clearances for AusAID's non-APS staff locally engaged at overseas missions where required.

Once a requirement for a security clearance has been identified, a request is submitted to AGSVA. The detailed arrangements for the processing of these security clearances are set out in the AGSVA Customer Service Charter.

Question No. 63

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

Answer:

Yes, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner provides advice to all agencies governed by the Freedom of Information Act, with respect to responding to FOI requests. AusAID also receives legal advice from time to time from the Australian Government Solicitor, on specific FOI matters.

Question No. 64

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How many FOI requests has the Department received for the year 2010-11? How many have been granted or denied?

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for the year 2010-11?

Answer:

AusAID received 21 FOI applications in the financial year 2010-11. Of these 21 FOI applications, two applications were granted in full, eleven applications were partially granted, seven applications were withdrawn and one application is pending resolution. Of the seven applications that were withdrawn, five were withdrawn because an agreement on release was reached outside the FOI Act. None were denied in full.

No conclusive certificates were issued in 2010-11.

Question No. 65

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How many FOI requests has the Department received for this FYTD? How many have been granted or denied?

Answer:

For the 2011-12 Financial year, six FOI requests have been received to date. Of these six requests, two have been withdrawn, one is pending resolution, two have been granted partial access and one was transferred to another Government department. Of the two applications that were withdrawn, one was withdrawn because an agreement on release was reached outside the FOI Act. None have been denied in full.

Question No. 66

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held for the year 2010-11?
2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11?

Answer:

1. Information on Ministers' domestic travel costs is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD).
2. Information on Ministerial Staff domestic travel, including costs, is available from DoFD.
3. None.
4. There was no additional cost to the Agency arising from Community Cabinet meetings in 2010-11. Information on the cost to Ministers' offices for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11 is available from DoFD.

Question No. 67

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?
2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?

Answer:

1. Information on Ministers' domestic travel costs is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD).
2. Information on Ministerial Staff domestic travel, including costs, is available from DoFD.
3. None.
4. There has been no additional cost to the Agency arising from Community Cabinet meetings this FYTD. Information on the cost to Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this FYTD is available from DoFD.

Question No. 68

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) in 2010-11?
2. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

1. AusAID stationery costs in 2010-11 for the portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries was \$1142.62.
2. AusAID estimates that it will spend approximately \$1100 on this stock for 2011-12

Question No. 69

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How much is spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade manages and pays for the portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries' training requirements.

Question No. 70

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

Following the aid review, the government committed to issuing a Transparency Charter by the end of 2011, following consultation with the Australian community and international partners. Can you please provide an update on the progress of the Transparency Charter? Is it on track to be issued by end of the year?

Answer:

The Transparency Charter was released on 23 November 2011.

Question No. 71

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

Will AusAID provide information or expand the information regarding the Transparency Charter on its website?

Answer:

The Transparency Charter was released on 23 November 2011 together with new web pages for the Vanuatu and Philippines programs which provide detailed information on Australia's aid program in those countries. All other AusAID programs will publish information in a similar format by the end of 2012 in accordance with the published work plan. The Charter, new web pages and work plan can be accessed at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/about/transparency.cfm>.

Question No. 72

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

Have consultations taken place? If so, how many consultations have taken place and with whom? Will there be public consultations and/or will the public have an opportunity to make submissions?

Answer:

Yes. In meeting the commitment to develop and release a Transparency Charter, AusAID consulted with the Australian Council for International Development, the business community, academics, the media, NGOs and other government agencies in Australia. More broadly AusAID undertook an internet user survey in May 2011 to obtain views on the existing AusAID website – users groups consulted included partner governments, AusAID scholarship holders, media representatives, NGOs and multilateral partners. AusAID also seeks on-line feedback from users.

Question No. 73

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

Will the transparency charter be applied to all ODA-eligible activities including those delivered by other government departments? If not, why not?

Answer:

AusAID will apply the Transparency Charter to all the programs it delivers. Continuing consultation with the Transparency whole of government forum will include how we can progressively apply the Charter across all Australian Government providers of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Question No. 74

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

An article in the Canberra Times on 4 October reported a 300% increase in executives at AusAID.

1. Where are these positions located?
2. What roles are they performing?

Answer:

1. The Canberra Times article of 4 October 2011 refers to data from the *Review of the Senior Executive Service* with AusAID numbers reflecting Senior Executive Staff (SES) growth between June 2000 and June 2010. During this period the Australian Aid Program increased from \$1.6 billion to \$4.36 billion in 2010-11. The majority of these roles based in Canberra.

2. AusAID SES are responsible for delivering outcomes towards AusAID's fundamental purpose to help people overcome poverty. They do this across corporate, policy and program management areas. AusAID SES provide strategic leadership and direction for Australia's aid program and support to the Parliament, the Minister and AusAID's Executive.

Question No. 75

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. How many permanent staff recruited in this FYTD?
2. What classification are these staff?
3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?
4. This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. AusAID has recruited 138 permanent staff in the current financial year to 31 October 2011.
2. These employees are classified as follows:

Classification	Number
APS3	2
APS4	11
APS5	28
APS6	48
EL1	35
EL2	12
SES1	2
SES2	0
SES3	0
Total permanent staff recruited	138

3. Eighty-nine temporary positions have been created in the current financial year to 31 October 2011.
4. In this period AusAID recruited 58 temporary employees. The average employment contract length is 7.5 months.

Question No. 76

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. How many permanent staff recruited for 2010-11?
2. What classification are these staff?
3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created for the year 2010-11?

4. For the year 2010-11, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. AusAID recruited 224 permanent staff in the financial year 2010-11.
2. These employees are classified as follows:

Classification	Number
APS3	28
APS4	16
APS5	29
APS6	60
EL1	58
EL2	23
SES1	7
SES2	1
SES3	2
Total permanent staff recruited	224

3. Eighty-four temporary positions were created in the financial year 2010-11.
4. In this period AusAID recruited 147 temporary employees. The average employment contract length was 6.7 months.

Question No. 77

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer:

No.

Question No. 78

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

For the year 2010-11, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant.

Answer:

For the year 2010-11, the Agency's total expenditure on education was \$263,447 with 90 AusAID staff participating in AusAID's study support scheme. The average cost

per participant was \$3,293.80. The courses studied by participants included: development studies; international relations; international law; strategic studies; development economics; public policy; Asia Pacific studies; and environmental management. The average amount of study leave granted per participant was 59.58 hours.

Question No. 79

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

For the FYTD, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant.

Answer:

This financial year to date, the Agency has expended \$81,893 on education with 40 AusAID staff participating in AusAID's study support scheme. The average cost per participant is estimated at \$2,047.32. The courses studied by participants include: development studies; international relations; international law; strategic studies; development economics; public policy; Asia Pacific studies; and environmental management. The average amount of study leave granted per participant is 46.48 hours.

Question No. 80

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

a) In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department and agency, please provide the following information for the year 2010-11:

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

a)

i. The Agency spent \$489,799 on executive coaching and leadership training programs.

ii. 831 employees were offered these services including: all SES band levels; Executive Level 2; Executive Level 1; and development specialists posted overseas at the Executive Level 1 and APS 6 level or equivalent.

iii. 197 employees used these services including: all SES band levels; Executive Level 2; Executive Level 1; and development specialists posted overseas at the Executive Level 1 and APS 6 level or equivalent. No study leave was granted to employees who used these services.

iv. Providers engaged for leadership development services in 2010-11 were: the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC); the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM); the London Business School (LBS); Jeff Whalan Learning Groups (JWLG); the National Security College (NSC); Centre for Public Management (CPM); and People and Strategy.

Providers of executive coaching services were: Amanda Horne Pty Ltd; Workplace Research; Foresight Management Group; Sue Adams Coaching and Facilitation Services; and Dragonfly Consulting and Coaching.

b)

i. Executive coaching services provided as per Question 80 a) iv, are tailored to individual employee development needs.

Leadership development services provided as per Question 80 a) iv, included: Strategic Change Leadership (AGSM); SES leadership (APSC); High Performance Skills for Leaders (LBS); Executive Learning (JWLG); National Security Senior Executive Development (NSC); Executive level learning (APSC); Career Development Assessment Centre (APSC); From Management to Leadership (CPM); Managing Teams and Individuals (CPM); and Executive Level Transition (People and Strategy).

ii. Executive coaching services were provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership programs were group based.

iii. 197 employees received executive coaching and leadership training including: all SES band levels; Executive Level 2; Executive Level 1; and

development specialists posted overseas at the Executive Level 1 and APS 6 level or equivalent.

iv. Executive coaching and leadership training totalled approximately 785 hours for all employees.

v. The Agency expended \$489,799 on executive coaching and leadership training programs.

vi. Executive coaching services were charged on a per hour basis whilst fees for all leadership programs were charged on a complete package basis. The fees associated with leadership training included: design and consultation; training delivery; venue and accommodation hire; catering; travel; and evaluation.

c)

i. Training locations that were used externally included: the Australian Public Service Commission locations in the ACT and NSW; National Security College in the ACT; The Carrington Inn in Bungendore, NSW; and The Novotel in Bogor, Indonesia.¹

ii. 103 employees were trained at external locations.

iii. Training provided at external locations totalled approximately 1434 hours for all employees.

iv. The total cost to deliver training at external locations was \$350,695.

Question No. 81

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

a) In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department and agency, please provide the following information for the FYTD:

i. Total spending on these services

ii. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification

iii. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted.

iv. The names of all service providers engaged

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

i. The name and nature of the service purchased

ii. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based

¹ Note – the leadership training in Bogor, Indonesia was delivered to posted staff in Indonesia only.

- iii. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
 - iv. The total number of hours involved for all employees
 - v. The total amount spent on the service
 - vi. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
- c) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises please provide:
- i. The location used
 - ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part
 - iv. Any costs the department or agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

- a)
- i. The Agency has expended \$526,635 on executive coaching and leadership training programs. AusAID is strengthening its commitment to leadership capacity following the *Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness* (Recommendation 31), as outlined in AusAID's Workforce Plan 2011 (available at <http://www.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/aisaidworkforceplan052011.pdf>).
 - ii. 813 employees have been offered these services including: all SES band levels; Executive Level 2; Executive Level 1; and development specialists posted overseas at the Executive Level 1 and APS 6 level or equivalent.
 - iii. 145 employees have used these services including: all SES band levels; Executive Level 2; Executive Level 1; and development specialists posted overseas at the Executive Level 1 and APS 6 level or equivalent. No study leave has been granted to employees to use these services.
 - iv. Providers engaged for leadership development services include: the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC); the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM); the National Security College (NSC); Centre for Public Management (CPM); and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG).

Providers of executive coaching services include: Amanda Horne Pty Ltd, Foresight Management Group, Interaction Consulting Group, Geoff Garrett and Associates Pty Ltd, Yellow Edge, Emergence International Pty Ltd, and Dragonfly Consulting and Coaching.

- b)
- i. Executive coaching services provided as per Question 81 a) iv, are tailored to individual employee development needs.

Leadership development services provided as per Question 81 a) iv, include: Strategic Change Leadership (AGSM); SES Leadership (APSC); National Security Professional Development and Introduction to Australia's National Security Challenges (NSC); Executive Level Learning (APSC); Career

Development Assessment Centre (APSC); Building Leadership (CPM); and the Executive Master of Public Administration (ANZSOG).

ii. Executive coaching services are provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership programs are group based.

iii. 145 employees have received executive coaching and leadership training including: all SES band levels; Executive Level 2; Executive Level 1; and development specialists posted overseas at the Executive Level 1 and APS 6 level or equivalent.

iv. Executive coaching and leadership training totalled approximately 2,515 hours for all employees.

v. The Agency has expended \$526,635 on executive coaching and leadership training programs.

vi. Executive coaching services are charged on a per hour and complete package basis whilst fees for all leadership programs are charged on a complete package basis. The fees associated with leadership training include: design and consultation; training delivery; venue and accommodation hire; catering; travel; and evaluation.

c)

i. Training locations that have been used externally include: the Australian Public Service Commission locations in the ACT and NSW; National Security College in the ACT; The Carrington Inn in Bungendore, NSW; The Lobby and University House in the ACT; and The Novotel in Bogor, Indonesia.²

ii. 106 employees were trained at external locations.

iii. Training provided at external locations totalled approximately 2,310 hours for all employees.

iv. This financial year to date the total cost to deliver training at external locations is \$439,648. However please note this figure includes actual training costs as it was not possible to identify venue costs only from some large training programs.

Question No. 82

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme?
- b) For the year 2010-2011 list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

² Note – the leadership training in Bogor, Indonesia was delivered to posted staff in Indonesia only.

- c) For the FYTD list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payments under the Government’s Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

- a) As per the Government’s Paid Parental Leave guidelines all AusAID employees who
- are Australian Residents;
 - are the primary carer of a newborn child or recently adopted child;
 - meet the Paid Parental Leave scheme work test before the birth or adoption occurs;
 - are on leave or not working from the time they become the child’s primary carer until the end of their Paid Parental Leave period
- are eligible to receive payments under the Government’s Paid Parental Leave Scheme.
- b) AusAID provides its employees with payments under the Government’s Paid Parental Leave scheme. One employee was in receipt of this payment for the year 2010-2011.
- c) AusAID provides its employees with payments under the Government’s Paid Parental Leave scheme. Two employees were in receipt of this payment for the FYTD.

Question No. 83

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – did the Agency undertake in 2011-12. Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
2. Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
3. Did the advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)? Provide the details of each advertising item.
4. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.

Answer:

1. AusAID did not undertake any campaign advertising during this period. Non-campaign advertising in the form of recruitment and tenders was undertaken as required and is reported in Appendix H of the AusAID Annual Report.
2. No, it was not required.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

Question No. 84

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake.

Answer:

AusAID does not plan to undertake any campaign advertising. Non-campaign advertising in the form of recruitment and tender advertisements will continue as required.

Communication activities being planned or undertaken are the same as in previous years and include a variety of publications, website and other online content, short videos, and public discussion forums.

Question No. 85

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for 2010-11?
- b) Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- c) What is the estimated budget to provide this same service for 2011-12?
- d) What has been spent providing these services FYTD?

Answer:

- a) Nil. There is no separate service provided to the Minister's office.
- b) Not applicable
- c) Nil
- d) Nil

Question No. 86

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Has there been any change to agency social media protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2011?

Answer:

No.

Question No. 87

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How many communications people are there in your agency? List their classification, position description, services they provide to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and any guidelines they must adhere to.

Answer:

There are 16 staff whose positions involve media and external communications. This includes two EL2s, six EL1s, seven APS 6 and one APS 5. Their activities include responding to media enquiries, preparing briefing, drafting media releases, producing publications and managing events.

Briefing and drafting media releases and speeches are the only services provided to the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary.

Communications staff are made aware of and utilise the Australian Public Service Commission's good practice guide *Supporting Ministers: Upholding the Values* (2006).

Question No. 88

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Has the department identified any countries that currently do not have a country strategy or plan that they see will be in need of ODA in the near future? That is any emerging funding areas of need?

Answer:

There are currently no plans for major new engagements in a country that is not already a recipient of Australian aid. The Government's policy, as stated in *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference – Delivering real results*, is that geographic allocations will be determined through the budget process and based on an assessment of four criteria – poverty, national interest, our capacity to make a difference and current scale and effectiveness.

Question No. 89

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

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

Answer:

AusAID does not have any boards.

At 30 June 2011 the male to female ratio of APS employees across AusAID was 1:1.6 (ie. For each male there are 1.6 females). This figure is based on the headcount of APS employees (including those on extended leave) and does not include non-APS contracted employees and locally engaged staff at AusAID's overseas missions.

Question No. 90

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Detail any board appointments for the year 2010-11.

Answer:

AusAID does not have any boards.

Question No. 91

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD.

Answer:

AusAID does not have any boards.

Question No. 92

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

For 2010-11:

1. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken by all departments and agencies in each portfolio?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. What reviews have been concluded?
4. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
6. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?

Answer:

1. to 6. An update to AusAID's answer to question 44, from Budget Estimates hearing May/June 2011, is provided in the table.

Review	Completion Date	Provided to Government	Government Response	Cost
	(Q92.2&3)	(Q92.4)	(Q92.5)	(Q92.6)
Whole of Government Deployment Review	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	\$4,000
Program Management and Evaluation Policy Review	Dec 2011	n/a	n/a	\$15,000
Sectoral Policy Division Review	June 2011	n/a	n/a	\$75,805

Question No. 93

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

For FYTD:

1. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken by all departments and agencies in each portfolio?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. What reviews have been concluded?
4. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
6. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?

Answer:

No reviews have been commenced in the financial year-to-date.

Question No. 94

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

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

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

Answer:

No reports have been commissioned in AusAID to date for 2011-12.

Question No. 95

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio for the year 2010-11? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

Three reports as outlined below. Terms of Reference are attached for each separately (QON 95 Attachment A). Dates of commission, completion (or intended completion) and release are outlined in the table below.

Committee members are:

- Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness:
 - Mr Sandy Hollway AO
 - Professor Stephen Howes
 - Ms Margaret Reid AO
 - Mr Bill Farmer AO
 - Mr John Denton
- Joint Review of Adviser Positions
 - The Review was undertaken as a joint process between AusAID and twenty partner countries. In each country the Review was conducted by teams of senior partner government representatives and AusAID. Other Australian Government agencies were involved in the assessment of positions occupied by Australian Government officials deployed as advisers.
- Whole of Government Deployment Review
 - The Deputy Director General Asia Pacific and Program Enabling Group, AusAID, led this review, supported by staff from AusAID's Human Resources Branch. Departments and agencies with employees deployed to partner country governments under the aid program participated in the review through regular consultation and meetings as required.

Costs for each report are included in the table below. Departmental staff involved in each report are:

- Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness Secretariat:

Full time	1 SES Band 1
	1 x EL2
	1 x EL1
	2 x APS4
Part time, various hours	Additional contributions from staff from across the agency.

- Joint Review of Adviser Positions:

Full time	
	1 x EL2
	1 x EL1
	1 x APS5
0.25	1 SES Band 1
Part time, various hours	Additional staff ranging from APS5 to EL2 to provide subject matter expertise.

- Whole of Government Deployment Review:

Part time	SES Band 3 oversight
	1 x EL2
	Additional contributions from staff across agency on working groups to inform the review.

Review	Date Commissioned	Completion Date	Provided to Government	Public Release	Cost	Current Status	Response Date
Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness	16 Nov 2011	Apr 2011	Apr 2011	July 2011	\$976,744	Completed	6 July 2011
Joint Review of Adviser Positions	May 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	\$1,076	Completed	Feb 2011
Whole of Government Deployment Review	Mar 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	TBA	\$4,000	Completed	Nov 2011

Question No. 96

Senator Kroger asked in writing

Qualitative recommendations have been made in the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, April 2011, in table 12.3 (page 238).

1. Has the Government supported the recommendations by region and country in principle?
2. Has the Government advised that they are considering the next budget allocation according to these principles?
3. Has the Government indicated its intent to diverge from these recommendations in relation to any specific region or country? If so, please indicate which geographic area and country.

Answer:

The Government's response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness is outlined in *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference – Delivering real results*. This publication was released in July 2011 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Government agreed or agreed in principle to 38 of the 39 recommendations made by the Independent Review team. (The Government noted the recommendation to rename the Ministerial portfolio covering the aid program and is still considering its response).

The Government stated in its response to the Independent Review (Recommendation 4) that specific geographic allocations will be decided by the Government in the 2012-13 budget process. Those geographic allocations will be based on an assessment of four criteria – poverty, national interest, our capacity to make a difference and current scale and effectiveness. In principle the Government has agreed that:

- aid to Pacific island countries, South East Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Africa and the Middle East be increased
- bilateral aid to China and India be phased out with future assistance to be delivered through regional and global programs
- any future increase in aid to Latin America and the Caribbean be modest, with any increases to be delivered through regional and global programs.

Question No. 97

Senator Kroger asked in writing

The report highlighted the inadequacies of the AusAID evaluation system and in particular the fact that of 547 projects, only 170 had completed progress reports. Of the 170, only 118 reports could be found.

1. What has been done to immediately address this significant issue?
2. Has an auditing process been put in place to check due process and ensure accountability?
3. Is it mandatory for all progress reports to be published on the AusAID website? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. AusAID has identified all 170 of the independent evaluation reports referred to. Our policy remains that all significant aid projects must be evaluated. We are introducing reforms so that project evaluations are undertaken at the most useful point in time; evaluation questions and methods are tailored to provide reliable information; and the resources invested are proportionate to the task. We are also supplementing these project evaluations with a range of different evaluations across the Agency. This includes preparing a rolling program of

- evaluations with strategic relevance to aid policy which will be oversighted by the Office of Development Effectiveness and an independent body of experts.
2. Compliance with the evaluation policy is monitored through AusAID's management information system, and regularly reported to the Executive. Any exemption to evaluation requirements must be approved by an Assistant Director General. The Government released a Transparency Charter for the aid program in November 2011. Under this Charter, program documents including evaluation reports will be routinely published on the AusAID website.
 3. AusAID's existing policy is to publish all evaluations, unless there are compelling legal or other risks to doing so.

Question No. 98

Senator Kroger asked in writing

- a) Has the proposed independent evaluation committee been established?
- b) If not, what is the timeline for its set up?
- c) If it has been established, what is its membership composition? How is this determined?
- d) What is its terms of reference, structure, objectives and meeting time tables?

Answer:

- a) No
- b) The committee is expected to be operational in the first half of 2012.
- c) and d) The composition, terms of reference and operational procedures of the committee have yet to be finalised.

Question No. 99

Senator Eggleston asked in writing.

On page 315 and 316 of the review is recommendation 39 "The scale up of the aid program to 0.5% of GNI should be subject to the progressive achievement of predetermined hurdles".

1. What work has the department done on establishing these hurdles and safeguards?
2. Has the department identified the best performing country programs? And those that are not performing so well?
3. Will they have aid reviewed?

Answer:

1. The Government agreed in principle to recommendation 39 of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, with program performance to be assessed through an annual review of the aid program, noting that development is a long term process and results will be incremental.

The first annual review will provide a baseline for future performance reviews and will be completed before the end of 2012. The basis for the review will be a set of

results to be achieved over the next 4-5 years, which will be published as part of the 2012-13 Budget. In line with the recommendations of the Independent Review this will cover the results of Australia's contribution to development outcomes (e.g. the number of children we will help to educate) as well as results relating to organisational effectiveness (e.g. standards relating to risk management and transparency).

2. In line with the Government's response to the Independent Review (recommendation 4), an assessment of the current scale and effectiveness of our major country programs was undertaken. This assessment was complemented by an assessment of poverty; national interest; and our capacity to make a difference in considering budget allocations to 2015-16. The key features of this assessment will be published as part of the 2012-13 Budget.
3. AusAID undertakes and publishes an assessment of individual country program performance each year, complemented by more substantial country strategy reviews including by the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE). These annual assessments and reviews serve to inform decisions on the allocation of aid monies and whether we are achieving the desired results or whether a different course of action is required.

Question No. 100

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

The review panel (page 11) specifies PNG, Solomon Islands and East Timor as "aid effectiveness is constrained by poor governance. The panel recommends a low level expansion." What specific steps is the department taking to improve effectiveness or will you not expand aid in these regions?

Answer:

Effective governance is one of the five strategic goals of Australia's new aid policy - *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference – Delivering real results* - launched on 6 July 2011 in response to Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness. It focuses on "improving governance to deliver better services, improve security, and enhance justice and human rights".

Improved governance is a key element of Australia's aid to PNG, Solomon Islands and East Timor. For example, in **PNG** Australia helps PNG's central government agencies, and lower levels of government, to budget, target, deliver and account for expenditure on core services throughout PNG. It also supports development of an appropriately skilled public sector workforce and institutions. In **East Timor**, Australia is strengthening public financial management by assisting the Ministry of Finance to manage infrastructure procurement processes, and supporting the delivery of financial management training across government. In **Solomon Islands**, through the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), Australia's aid includes economic and public financial management, helping the Solomon Islands Government to strengthen its systems for budgeting, allocation and disbursement of public funds.

Specific geographic aid allocations will be decided by the Government in the 2012-13 Budget process. These allocations will be based on an assessment of four criteria – poverty, national interest, our capacity to make a difference and current scale and effectiveness.

Steps are continually taken to improve the effectiveness of Australia's aid, including to PNG, Solomon Islands and East Timor. In **PNG**, effectiveness measures include: reducing the use of long-term expatriate advisers and ensuring they are focussed on areas where they are able to make a difference; narrowing the sectoral focus of Australian assistance; adopting a greater emphasis on direct service delivery; and better measuring results to inform future activities. Similar steps have been taken in **East Timor**, with phasing out of 29 long-term adviser positions by June 2012, and reducing fragmentation of Australia's aid by targeting primary health care, basic education, employment, infrastructure, government accountability and a safer community. In **Solomon Islands**, Australia is working to improve the effectiveness of its aid by focusing efforts on restoring stability and essential services – education, health, infrastructure and policing. In addition, Australia is reducing its adviser numbers in the Solomon Islands by one third by 2013. Australia is also working to ensure a more coordinated approach to economic reform by donors, through the Core Economic Working Group. This Working Group enables donors and the Solomon Islands Government to jointly agree reform priorities and sequencing and better target their aid, including performance-based funding.

Question No. 101

Senator Eggleston asked on notice

- a) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for the year 2010-11? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for the year 2010-11. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events

Answer:

- a) Please refer to our answer to question 46 from the Budget Estimates hearing May/June 2011.
- b) Hospitality expenditure by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices is not funded by AusAID.

Question No. 102

Senator Eggleston asked on notice

- a) What is the Department's entertainment spend for the year 2010-11? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for the year 2010-11. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

- a) Please refer to our answer to question 46 from the Budget Estimates hearing May/June 2011.
- b) Hospitality expenditure by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices is not funded by AusAID.

Question No. 103

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

- a) It is not possible to provide an accurate total, nor breakdown by date, location purpose or cost for the Agency's planned spend on hospitality.
- b) Hospitality expenditure by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices is not funded by AusAID.

Question No. 104

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainments spend is currently being planned for. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

- a) It is not possible to provide an accurate total for the Agency's planned spend on entertainment.
- b) Hospitality expenditure by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices is not funded by AusAID.

Question No. 105

Senator Eggleston asked on notice

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

Answer:

Discretionary grant payments made by AusAID are considered to be Official Development Assistance and do not fall within the definition of grants under the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations*.

Question No. 106

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How many consultancies were undertaken in 2010-11? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source). Also include total value for all consultancies.

Answer:

This information is reported in AusAID's Annual Report for the 2010-11 Financial Year.

Question No. 107

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway this FYTD? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.

Answer:

This information is available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au) for both individual consultancies and for the total value of all consultancies entered into by AusAID.

Question No. 108

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

AusAID has not employed any of the firms listed.

Question No. 109

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for the year 2010-11? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.

Answer:

AusAID payments are considered to be Official Development Assistance and do not fall within the definition of grants under the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations*.

Question No. 110

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

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

Answer:

AusAID payments are considered to be Official Development Assistance and do not fall within the definition of grants under the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations*.

Question No. 111

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

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

Answer:

Discretionary grant payments made by AusAID are considered to be Official Development Assistance and do not fall within the definition of grants under the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations*.

Question No. 112

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

For the year 2010-11, did 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.

- (a) For accounts not paid within 30 days, was 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?
- (b) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- (a) AusAID paid 94.15 per cent of its accounts within 30 days during the 2010-11 financial year. A breakdown of payment timeframes is provided below:

	Paid within 30 days	Paid between 31-44 days	Paid within 45-60 days	Paid greater than 60 days
% of invoices by number	94.15	3.06	1.30	1.49
% of invoices by value	97.35	1.51	0.46	0.68

- (b) There were no interest payments made during the 2010-11 financial year.

Question No. 113

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

For the FYTD, 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.

- (a) For accounts not paid within 30 days, was 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?
- (b) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- (a) AusAID has paid 94.64 per cent of its accounts within 30 days for the period ended October 2011 this financial year. A breakdown of payment timeframes is provided below:

	Paid within 30 days	Paid between 31-44 days	Paid within 45-60 days	Paid greater than 60 days
% of invoices by number	94.64	3.12	1.25	.99
% of invoices by value	97.87	1.13	.61	.39

- (b) No interest payments have been made during the current financial year.

Question No. 114

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)?

- a) If yes; please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
- b) What was the cost for 2010-11?
- c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- a) AusAID has a current subscription to Foxtel. In addition it provides cable and satellite TV at a number of overseas posts. The major providers are:
 - BBC
 - Bloomberg
 - CNBC
 - CNN
 - Sky News
 - APAC

The subscriptions are required for current affairs and media monitoring and also ensuring that AusAID staff in Australia and at post are able to stay informed of international issues relevant to AusAID's operations, such as humanitarian emergencies.

- b) The cost to AusAID for the financial year 2010-11 was \$98,283.91.
- c) The estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$105,000.

Question No. 115

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers?

- (a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost, and what newspapers
- (b) What was the cost for 2010-11?
- (c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- (a) AusAID subscribes to newspapers for the purpose of providing senior managers in Australia and overseas with information on current affairs and international issues that may impact upon the delivery of the aid program. The newspapers sourced on a daily basis in Canberra include:

- The Canberra Times
- Daily Telegraph
- The Sydney Morning Herald
- The Australian Financial Review
- The Age
- The Australian

Newspapers provided overseas include the major publication(s) in each of the countries where AusAID has representation.

- (b) The cost for newspapers for the financial year 2010-11 was \$51,705.
- (c) The estimated cost for newspapers in 2011-12 is \$58,000, the increase due to increases in the prices of the publications, and also the establishment of new posts overseas and new positions in Australia.

Question No. 116

Senator Eggleston asked on notice

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines?

- a) If yes please provide the reason why, the cost, and what magazines.
- b) What was the cost for 2010-11?
- c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- a) AusAID subscribes to magazines for the purpose of providing senior managers in Australia and overseas with access to up to date information on current affairs and international issues that may impact upon the delivery of the aid program. The magazines sourced include:
 - New Scientist
 - Guardian Weekly
 - The Economist
 - Time Magazine
 - Business Review Weekly
 - Lancet
- b) The cost for magazines in the financial year 2010-11 was \$21,112.37.
- c) The estimated cost for magazines in the financial year 2011-12 is \$23,000.

Question No. 117

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- b) For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- c) For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- d) For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) administers the Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's travel arrangements.
- b) Refer to DFAT.
- c) For details on departmental officers who accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries on travel, please see QON 117 Attachment A. Note that there were no costs incurred for department officers for security or gifts. AusAID does not itemise separately the amounts spent on food, beverages and incidentals for each departmental officer for each visit. There was one trip which commenced on 30 Jun 11 and was completed on 3 Jul 11 which is reported in the answer to QoN 118.
- d) In 2010-11, AusAID spent \$15.2m on travel by all employees. This included \$9.8m on airfares, \$2.6m on accommodation, \$0.4m on medical and visa costs and \$2.4m on other costs including meals and incidental allowances. Employees are entitled to a travel allowance which covers food, beverages and incidentals; it is therefore not possible to itemise separately the amounts spent on food, beverages and incidentals.

Question No. 118

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- b) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- c) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) administers the Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's travel arrangements.
- b) Refer to DFAT.
- c) For details on departmental officers who accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries on travel, please see QON 118 Attachment A. Note

that there were no costs incurred for department officers for security or gifts. Department officers are entitled to a travel allowance which covers food, beverages and incidentals and which is spent at their personal discretion. AusAID does not itemise separately the amounts spent on food, beverages and incidentals for each departmental officer for each visit.

Question No. 119

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

- a) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and cost.
- d) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

Under the Legal Services Directions, each portfolio department and agency is required to report on its legal services expenditure. However, there is no requirement to report on each service and the cost of each service.

To require AusAID to review each service and its cost for the 2010-11 financial year would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources, having regard to the extent of the legal services expenditure.

- (a) AusAID's total legal services expenditure for the 2010-11 financial year was \$749,204.81 (inc GST).
- (b) AusAID's total expenditure on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the financial year 2010-11 was \$540,546.20 (inc GST).
- (c) AusAid's total expenditure on legal services from private firms for the financial year 2010-11 was \$208,658.61 including disbursements. The names of these firms and individual costs are as follows;

Blake Dawson	\$ 76,591.84
Minter Ellison	\$ 47,649.01
Kaplan & Stratton (Nairobi, Kenya)	\$ 897.00
Bradley Allen Lawyers	\$ 1,241.90
Sol-Law	\$ 32,618.96
Cannon Assurance Ltd	\$ 986.55
Seyoum Yahannes	\$ 12,002.22
Clayton Utz	\$ 20,302.69
DFDL Mekong, Vientiane Office	\$ 2,334.43
Howard Lawyers, Fiji	\$ 3,523.26
Disbursements	<u>\$ 10,510.75</u>
	\$208,658.61

- (d) AusAID had no expenditure for legal services for the financial year 2010-11 from any other sources.

Question No. 120

Senator Eggleston asked in writing;

- (a) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- (b) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- (c) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- (d) What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer

Under the Legal Services Directions, each portfolio department and agency is required to report on its legal services expenditure. However, there is no requirement to report on each service and the cost of each service.

To require AusAID to review each service and its cost for the Financial Year to Date (FYTD) would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources, having regard to the extent of the legal services expenditure.

- (a) AusAID's total legal services expenditure for the FYTD up to 10 November 2011 was \$374,178.90 (inc GST).

(b) AusAID’s total expenditure on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the FYTD up to 10 November 2011 was \$301,221.80 (inc GST).

(c) AusAID’s total expenditure on legal services from private firms for the FYTD was \$72,957.10. The names of these firms and costs are as follows:

Blake Dawson	\$ 28,939.74
Clayton Utz	\$ 17,808.33
Sol-Law	\$ 8,701.87
Minter Ellison	\$ 17,507.16
	\$ 72,957.10

(d) Nil.

Question No. 121

Senator Eggleston asked on notice

1. How many cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio?
2. Where is the car/cars located?
3. What is the car/s used for?
4. What is the cost for each car for 2010-11?
5. How far did each car travel in 2010-11?

Answer:

1. AusAID owns 129 cars, all located at our overseas posts.
2. The Post and number of cars at that post is as follows:

Location	Cars	Location	Cars
Addis Ababa	1	Kathmandu	2
Accra	1	Manila	4
Apia	1	Nairobi	4
Beijing	1	Nauru	18
Bangkok	1	New Delhi	1
Colombo	2	Nuku'alofa	3
Dhaka	2	Phnom Penh	4
Dili	8	Port Moresby	28
Geneva	1	Pretoria	4
Harare	3	Rangoon	1
Hanoi	3	Ramallah	1
Honiara	5	Suva	4
Islamabad	3	Tarawa	3
Jakarta	12	Port Vila	3
Kabul	2	Vientiane	3

3. The cars are used for work related travel, which is often into remote areas requiring 4 wheel drive access.
4. In 2010-11, the total operating costs of the cars was \$386,327.
5. We do not maintain records on the distance travelled by each vehicle in a financial year.

Question No. 122

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.

Answer:

In 2010-11, AusAID spent a total of \$323,442 on taxis. The group breakdown is as follows:

Group	Total
Asia Pacific and Enabling Group	\$135,034
Executive and Corporate, Humanitarian and International Group	\$188,408
Total	\$323,442

Question No. 123

Senator Eggleston asked in writing

1. How many staff in each department and agency have a corporate credit card? What is their classification?
2. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
3. How is Corporate Credit Card use monitored?
4. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
5. How many instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
6. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

1. As at 18 November 2011, AusAID had 474 corporate credit cards on issue or waiting to be collected.

Classification	Number of cardholders
APS3	4
APS4	3
APS5	24
APS6	91
Contractor	2
EL1	174
EL2	120
SES1	44
SES2	9
SES3 and Above	3
Grand Total	474

2. AusAID has no recorded instances of misuse of corporate credit cards. If misuse were to happen all transactions that have been established as misuse of a corporate credit card are reported immediately to the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Auditor for investigation and appropriate action such as recovery of funds. In cases of minor infringement where the card is not used in accordance with this policy, the AusAID CEIs or the Cardholder Acknowledgement and Agreement Form, cancellation of the card will be considered by the CFO in consultation with the Approving Officer. Action may also be taken in accordance with AusAID's procedures for determining breaches of the APS Code of Conduct.
3. All credit card transactions are recorded on AusAID's credit card acquittal system. AusAID credit card holders must acquit their transactions for approval by their relevant supervisor. The supervisor checks that the actual expenditure was in accordance with the proposed expenditure and has been properly accounted for. Supervisors also regularly review cardholders' usage to ensure that the cards are being used properly and those cardholders have a continuing need for a card. Further, the Chief Financial Officer must ensure that cardholders fully understand, and acknowledge in writing, the conditions of AusAID's Cardholder Agreement and Acknowledgement Form.
4. See response to question 2.
5. See response to question 2.
6. A staff member must apply for a credit card demonstrating their need and all applications must be approved by an SES Band 1 or higher. This ensures only those staff requiring cards are issued with a card. Before being issued with a card, the staff member must provide proof that they have successfully completed the online credit training module and also sign they understand the conditions of use of the card.

Question No. 124

Senator Rhiannon asked in writing

How many aid consultants are now on contracts in excess of \$350,000 per annum? Who are the consultants on more than \$350,000? What contracts have they been awarded; in what countries are they operating; and what is the timeframe for the projects they are working on to be completed?

Answer:

As of 20 October 2011, there were twenty-eight (28) long-term advisers on contracts with annual remuneration of \$350,000 or greater. All of these contracts were negotiated and entered into prior to the introduction, in February 2011, of AusAID's Adviser Remuneration Framework (ARF). The maximum monthly salary for a long term adviser under the ARF is \$21,502, inclusive of leave and superannuation. This equates to an annual salary of \$258,024. Depending on their location, advisers may also be eligible to receive allowances (which reflect a percentage of their salary) and be reimbursed for a limited range of costs associated with undertaking an assignment.

Of these 28 advisers on annual contracts of more than \$350,000:

- Two (2) are on contracts which expire before 31 December 2011
- Twenty (20) are on contracts which expire before 31 December 2012
- Three (3) are on contracts which expire before 31 December 2013, and
- Three (3) are on contracts which expire before 31 December 2014.

Any amendment or extension of these contracts will be under the terms and conditions of the ARF.

Of the 28 advisers, 19 are working in PNG, three in Indonesia, two in Vanuatu, two in the Solomon Islands, one in the Philippines and one in Afghanistan.

Of the 28 advisers, ten work in the governance sector, three in the rural development and food security sector, eight in infrastructure, three in education and two in the health sector. Two work across one or more sectors.

Question No. 125

Senator Cash asked in writing

- a) How will the \$96.4 million budget be administered to countries in the Asia Pacific?
- b) Will the funds be administered by AusAID? If not, who will administer and oversee the allocation of these funds?

Answer

- a) In the 2011-12 Federal Budget provided additional funding of \$96.4 million over four years for initiatives to eliminate violence against women and to support women affected by violence in developing countries. This funding will expand AusAID's work to end violence against women in the Pacific, Asia, and countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The focus of the Budget measure is:

- to prevent violence against women and change community attitudes towards violence against women;
- to have health, education and legal response services in place that respond to needs of women who have been subjected to violence
- to expand efforts to address violence against women in conflict and post-conflict affected environments.

The regional allocation of this funding is:

- \$25 million to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific;
- \$32 million to Indonesia and South East Asia; and
- \$35 million to Africa, South and Central Asia, the Middle East and global funds.

b) The funds will be administered by AusAID.

Question No. 126

Senator Kroger asked in writing

The Holloway Review is critical of the current budget processes

1. Please provide a status update of the current process for budgetary considerations
2. How does this differ from past practise?

Answer:

The Government agreed to recommendation 26 of the Independent Review that the budget process should be reformed to provide greater funding certainty. In its response, the Government added that:

- a comprehensive aid policy framework, which includes a four-year budget strategy, will be developed by Government;
- this Framework will form the basis of future new policy proposals, which will be brought forward annually in the whole-of-ODA budget submission consistent with whole-of-government budgetary processes; and
- improvements in the operation of the ODA Contingency Reserve will be considered before the 2012-13 Budget.

Details of the Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework and changes to the aid budget process will be published in the 2012-13 Budget.

Question No. 127

Senator Eggleston asked on notice

How has the efficiency dividend been implemented?

Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer:

The efficiency dividend is applied across AusAID's operational budget.

Question No. 128

Senator Kroger asked in writing

- a) What fraud control training is provided?
On page 280 the Holloway report notes that attendance was not high in 2008.
- b) Is attendance optional?
- c) How is this being addressed?

Answer:

- a) Fraud control training in AusAID includes:
 - Sessions during AusAID's Orientation and Induction Program attended by all new staff; and
 - Training provided to staff in Canberra and at overseas posts to assist staff to understand AusAID's Fraud Control Framework. This session involves discussing:
 - What constitutes fraud;
 - AusAID's attitude towards fraud ; and
 - The responsibilities of staff and implementing partnersto:
 - o report fraud immediately; and
 - o implement directions from the AusAID Director Fraud Control in relation to the management of fraud cases.

Similar training is provided to Contractors, NGOs and other implementing partners at overseas posts.

- b) & c) The fraud control training program is mandatory for all AusAID staff including Overseas-based staff. The majority of staff undertake the training within the first three (3) months of commencement and refresher training is required every four (4) years and prior to taking up an overseas posting. Training is also provided to contractors and other government and non-government organisations responsible for implementing the Australian aid program.