

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 1

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question on Notice: Page: 4

Senator Eggleston

Could you please outline DFATs total expenditure for 2010/11 including auditing, memberships, programs breakdown etc.?

Answer

The Department's 2010-11 Annual Report includes information on DFAT's total expenditure, in particular:

- External auditing expense - reported in the Financial Statements at Note 12 (Resources received free of charge), page 303.
- Membership expenses - refer Section 4, Appendix 11 – Grants and contributions, page 229.

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Question No. 2

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question on Notice: Page: 4

Senator Eggleston

Please outline the expenditure on travel in 2010/11 including a breakdown of first class, business class, economy, international, domestic travel, and projected travel in 2011/12?

Answer

For the department's expenditure on travel refer to the 2010-11 DFAT Annual Report page 284, Financial Statements 2010-11, Note 3B. Following is a breakdown of the air travel booked in Australia through the department's Travel Management Company:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| First class air travel | \$1,462,135 |
| Business class air travel | \$20,529,172 |
| Economy class air travel | \$2,697,565 |
| International air travel | \$20,438,958 |
| Domestic air travel | \$4,249,914 |

Projected travel expenditure in 2011-12 is expected to be similar to 2010-11.

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Question No. 3

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question on Notice: Page: 4

Senator Eggleston

What was DFAT expenditure on entertainment and hosting in 2010/11 and a breakdown of international, domestic, the UNSC bid and projected spending for 2011/12?

Answer

For the financial year 2010-11, the department spent \$4.75 million in Australia and overseas on hosting and entertainment.

The composition of entertainment and hosting expenditure overseas and in Australia:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Overseas | \$4.02 million |
| Australia | <u>\$0.73 million</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>\$4.75 million</u> |

Hosting and entertainment expenditure relating to the United Nations Security Council bid has been incurred both through a range of specific events and as part of broader hospitality events across the diplomatic network. To collate records to identify this expenditure would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.

The Department's projected hosting and entertainment expenditure for 2011-12 is expected to be similar to expenditure patterns in 2010-11.

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Question No. 4

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question on Notice: Page: 5

Senator Eggleston

What was the DFAT expenditure on advertising in 2010/11 and the program breakdown and projected in 2011/12?

Answer

The Department's 2010-11 Annual Report includes information on advertising expenditure, refer Appendix 10 page 228.

The Department expects the level of expenditure on advertising in 2011-12 to remain consistent with 2010-11 apart from advertising expenditure on the Smartraveller campaign, which is expected to increase to \$3.9 million.

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Question No. 5

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel

Question on Notice: Page: 6

Senator Kroger

Please provide the protocol for organising VIP flights and whether that protocol has changed in the last 12 months.

Answer

The Department of Defence manages the use of Special Purpose Aircraft/VIP flights. This question should be directed to the Department of Defence.

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Question No. 6

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel

Question on Notice: Page: 6

Senator Kroger

Does the PM authorise VIP flights?

Answer

The Department of Defence manages the use of Special Purpose Aircraft/VIP flights. This question should be directed to the Department of Defence.

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Question No. 7

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel

Question on Notice: Page: 7

Senator Kroger

How does Mr Rudd's trip costs compare to Mr Downer?

Answer

This question should be directed to the Department of Finance and Deregulation, which administers travel costs for Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MOP(S) Act staff.

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Question No. 8

Program: DFAT

Topic: UNSC Travel

Question on Notice: Page: 8

Senator Eggleston

What travel has been undertaken by Australia's special envoys since previous estimates for UNSC bid?

Answer

Bill Fisher:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| May 2011 | Guinea, Mali, Djibouti, Comoros |
| June 2011 | Benin, Niger, Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire |
| August 2011 | Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Burundi |
| Oct/Nov 2011 | Algeria, Chad, Monaco, Burkina Faso, New York |

Dr Russell Trood:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| September 2011 | Bled Strategic Forum (Slovenia), Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania |
|----------------|---|

John McCarthy:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| June 2011 | Central American Security Summit (Guatemala) |
| July 2011 | Central American Integration System (SICA) Summit (El Salvador) |

Tim Fischer:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| August 2011 | Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Ministers meeting (Argentina) |
| September 2011 | Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) commemorative event (Serbia) |

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Neil Mules:

May 2011 Portugal, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Angola

October 2011 Sao Tome and Principe

November 2011 Guinea-Bissau

Bob McMullan:

November 2011 New York

Question No. 9

Program: TED

Topic: OECD

Question on Notice: Page: 9

Senator Fawcett

The OECD countries have specific programs in developing countries. Could you let me know what our involvement is with these programs in terms of staff and cost of these programs? What are the specific outcomes that you are looking for?

Answer

Australia is a strong supporter of the OECD's increasing dialogue and cooperation with emerging economies and developing countries, and, since 2007 particularly through its Enhanced Engagement (EE) Program with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa. The OECD is also working to bolster its collaboration with South East Asia, as well as other regions.

Australia contributed approximately \$332,000 dollars through its 2011 assessed contributions (calendar year) to the OECD's EE program (based on the OECD's estimate of expenditure on EE program activities and Australia's share of the OECD's overall budget). Australia's Ambassador to the OECD and staff at the Delegation in Paris contribute to OECD discussions on cooperation with the EE countries, including through the External Relations Committee (which Australia chaired in 2009 and 2010), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) – China Study Group, and the Development Centre.

In addition, Australia provided one-off funding for specific programs with the EE countries during 2010 and 2011, as follows.

Indonesia:

OECD Review of Indonesia's Education Sector - \$A 270,000

Australia is providing technical consultancy support (involving 3 AusAID staff based in Jakarta) for six months to prepare a report on Indonesia's education system. The report will be used to inform Indonesia's education policy development and implementation, as well as to provide key input to the Indonesia Education Sector Review, to be undertaken by the OECD in 2012.

OECD Review of Agricultural Policies in Indonesia - \$A 70,801

The Review will assess changes in Indonesian agriculture over the last two decades, evaluate agricultural policy reforms and provide recommendations for improving policy performance. The review is expected to be finalised by September 2012.

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OECD Review of Regulatory Reform in Indonesia - \$A 243,583

The Review will look at how to enhance the capacity and improve the processes by which the Indonesian Government makes and enforces regulation, so as to attract and retain investment, improve services and raise public welfare. It will focus on the administrative and institutional arrangements for ensuring that regulations are effective and efficient. The Review is anticipated to be finalised in early 2012. As Chair of the OECD Working Party of the Trade Committee, Australia participated in an in-country OECD review of Indonesia's policies in early February 2011.

South Africa

Tax Treaty Negotiation Workshop - \$A800

Under the OECD's EE program and its Tax and Development program, the OECD aims to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to mobilise domestic resources for their development through more effective tax systems. The OECD ran a multilateral workshop organised by the South African Development Community (SADC) in Durban in April 2010. The Australian Treasury provided an instructor. Travel costs were substantially funded by SADC.

Question No. 10

Program: DFAT

Topic: Human Rights

Question on Notice: Page: 10

Senator Eggleston

The human rights watchdog group, UN Watch, has been prevented from attending the Durban 3 racism meeting in New York. According to reports, the list of NGOs accredited to attend the event must be approved by member states. Did Australia approve the final list of NGOs attending Durban 3? Did Australia raise an objection to the inclusion of the Geneva based group, North-South 21 — a group which was previously funded by the Gaddafi regime in Libya and which was regarded as anti-Semitic? Did Australia seek to have UN Watch included on the final list of NGOs attending Durban 3?

Answer

No. On Friday 19 August 2011, Australia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York received a proposed list of 88 NGOs to attend the Durban High Level Meeting. On Tuesday 23 August, Australia withdrew from the Durban High Level Meeting and all associated preparatory processes. Consistent with this decision, we did not provide any comment on the proposed list of NGO attendees.

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Question No. 11

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff

Question on Notice: Page: 11

Senator Eggleston

What is the increase in personnel for the five new posts (Chennai, Mumbai, Lima, Holy See and Addis Ababa) since 2008?

Answer

It has been our long-standing practice not to provide the number of DFAT A-based staff at individual posts. However, the total increase in DFAT A-based personnel for the five new overseas posts that have opened since 2008 is 14. This is inclusive of four positions that will commence or have already commenced this financial year.

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Question No. 12

Program: DFAT

Topic: UNSC

Question on Notice: Page: 13

Senator Kroger

Could you provide us with the cost to date of the UNSC bid and projected spending for 2011-12?

Answer

The Department fully utilised new funding provided by Government for the UNSC bid totalling \$13.0m over three years, as follows:

| | 2008-09 (\$m) | 2009-10 (\$m) | 2010-11 (\$m) |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2008-09 Additional Estimates | 1.9 | | |
| 2009-10 Budget | | 5.4 | 5.7 |

In the 2011-12 Budget the Government committed \$10.5 million over two years to the bid. These funds are being provided from existing departmental resources.

Question No. 13

Program: DFAT

Topic: Whaling/Legal

Question on Notice: Page: 16

Senator Eggleston

\$4.3 million has been allocated over 4 years for Australia to progress its anti-whaling case in the International Court of Justice. How is that budget expenditure going, and what progress has been made in Australia's case in the international court?

Answer

Budget expenditure

The \$4.2 million allocated to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in relation to the case has been used to fund a position at the Embassy in The Hague (location of the International Court of Justice), to fund positions in the International Organisations and Legal Division of the Department and to provide Japanese language translation and research services and fund travel to Japan to conduct in-country research. The allocation will continue to be used to fund the whaling-related positions within the Department over the next two years, as well as associated international travel.

Progress in the ICJ case

Australia filed its written submissions (Memorial) with the International Court of Justice on 9 May 2011. This is in accordance with an Order from the Court, issued after Australia filed its Application Instituting Proceedings on 31 May 2010. The Court has ordered that Japan file its written submissions (Counter-Memorial) by 9 March 2012. The Court will then set the timeframes for the following steps in the process, which may include a second round of written submissions – a reply and rejoinder.

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Question No. 14

Program: DFAT

Topic: China

Question on Notice: Page: 17

Senator Eggleston

There has been controversy about Chinese investment in Australia, particularly in agriculture and mining. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce has a lot power in this area. Do we know of any Australian investments in China that the Ministry of Commerce has disallowed?

Answer

No. We are not aware of any Australian investment proposal being formally rejected by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. Many investments that Australian companies might be interested in are either prohibited or subject to strong restrictions under China's investment regulations.

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Question No. 15

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice: Page: 19

Senator Kroger

How often can family visitation rights be exercised in Chinese jails?

Answer

In detention, no visitors or phone calls from anyone other than consular officers and lawyers are allowed. However, once sentenced, visits by family members are permissible after a 1-2 month induction period is completed. Family visits are considered to be privileges. The regularity of the visits varies and is a matter for local prison authorities. Generally, family visits are allowed at least once per month in most cases.

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Question No. 16

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 22

Senator Ronaldson

Could you tell me exactly when the Foreign Minister spoke with the Consul-General about the young boy in Bali and the nature of the advice he provided?

Answer

The Foreign Minister first spoke to the Consul-General about this case on Thursday 6 October. He called several times thereafter. The Consul-General provided updates to the Foreign Minister on the status of the case and the welfare of the boy and his parents.

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Question No. 17

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 23

Senator Ronaldson

I understand that the Foreign Minister spoke to the Ambassador in Jakarta a day prior (6 October). Is that correct?

Answer

The Foreign Minister spoke to the Ambassador regularly about this case, including in the lead-up to the Ambassador's visit to Bali on 8-15 October.

Question No. 18

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 24

Senator Ronaldson

Can I ask you, was there a phone call prior to the Prime Minister's phone call to ascertain where the Ambassador was going to be, or was it simply fortuitous that the Ambassador happened to be there? Was it a pre-arranged phone call? Was this the first call the Prime Minister had had to the Ambassador in relation to the matter?

Answer

The Prime Minister outlined the circumstances of her call to the Ambassador in an interview on ABC radio on 12 October 2011.

A telephone call from the Prime Minister to the Ambassador had been scheduled for Sunday 9 October, but it was not planned that the Ambassador would be at the Denpasar Police Headquarters at the time of the call. There had been delays that day in obtaining access to the boy. This was not the first telephone call that the Ambassador had received from the Prime Minister in relation to this case.

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Question No. 19

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 25

Senator Ronaldson

How many times has a Prime Minister of Australia made a phone call to a minor in a foreign jail?

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not hold the necessary records to answer this question with accuracy.

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Question No. 20

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 27

Senator Kroger

Has the Prime Minister or former Prime Ministers ever spoken to an Australian citizen in detention, directly, in Indonesia, as in this case? Has a Foreign Minister ever spoken directly to someone in detention? And is the case, in relation to families, whether any other Prime Ministers/Foreign Ministers have spoken to family members of detained Australians overseas?

Answer

With regard to the activities of the Prime Minister and former Prime Ministers, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not hold the necessary records to answer these questions with accuracy.

To the best of our knowledge, the Foreign Minister has not spoken directly to someone in detention.

The Foreign Minister has spoken with family members of detained Australians overseas.

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Question No. 21

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice

Page: 28

Senator Kroger

Has the Foreign Minister ever spoken to any other Australian citizen in detention in Indonesia as he has with this citizen, likewise with the Prime Minister?

Answer

The Foreign Minister has not spoken with this particular citizen in detention in Indonesia.

The Foreign Minister has not spoken to any other Australian citizen in detention in Indonesia.

With regard to the Prime Minister, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not have the necessary records to answer this question with accuracy. This question is best directed to the Prime Minister.

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Question No. 22

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question on Notice: Page: 28

Senator Senator Macdonald

Has President Yudhoyono or the Indonesian FM ever spoken with Indonesians in detention in Australia?

Answer

DFAT is not aware of such contact, but we would not necessarily be advised if there was such contact.

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Question No. 23, 24 and 25

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trade

Questions on Notice: Page: 36 and 37

Senator Colbeck

23) Did Minister Ludwig visit an abattoir during his visits to Indonesia?

Answer

No.

24) Did DFAT make any coordinating comments or was aware of the submission in respect of advising Minister Ludwig to 'work collaboratively' with industry?

Answer

No. DFAT was not aware of the internal DAFF submission of 30 May to Minister Ludwig.

25) Did DFAT provide talking points to Minister Rudd in relation to the decision to initial bans on abattoirs 11 and 12?

Answer

Yes.

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Question No. 26

Program: DFAT

Topic: Cambodia – Railway rehabilitation project

Question on Notice: Page: 38

Senator Rhiannon

- 1) What interaction has the Australian Embassy in Cambodia or anyone in DFAT had with the relatives of the two young children who drowned, Hat Heap and Hat Hoeb? They were part of a family forcibly resettled with the railways rehabilitation project.
- 2) Are you aware that there have been no public statements by DFAT about the deaths of those two children? Is that correct?

Answer

- 1) As AusAID advised the Committee on 30 October 2011, in November 2010 an AusAID officer from Phnom Penh visited Battambang and the community affected as part of a wider mission reviewing the railway rehabilitation project.
The officer conveyed the sympathies and condolences of the Australian Government. AusAID followed-up on that early contact with the family in December 2010 when a senior officer from Canberra went to Battambang, and met with members of the family.
- 2) Yes.

Question No. 27

Program: DFAT

Topic: Defence White Paper / East Asia Summit

Question on Notice: Page: 40

Senator Fawcett

1) To what extent was DFAT involved in the creation of the 2009 White Paper with respect to shaping the military's capability and capacity to respond to disaster relief in the region? I would like to know who was involved and to what extent the discussions went.

2) In regard to your statement, 'we commissioned the former head of the Emergency Management Institute in Attorney-General's to undertake a review of effectiveness, which has gone into shaping our approach to the East Asia Summit', and considering the terms of reference, how is that effectiveness then defined? What sorts of things were you looking at for effectiveness?

Answer

1) At each stage of the Defence White Paper's development, DFAT provided foreign policy guidance and advice, which included consultation by Defence on those elements related to disaster relief. This consultation involved the First Assistant Secretary of International Security Division, officers from relevant geographic divisions, the Assistant Secretary of Strategic Issues and Intelligence Branch as well as officers from the Defence and Strategic Policy Section. These officers routinely kept the DFAT Secretary and Deputy Secretaries informed.

DFAT's input into discussions with Defence was based on the recognition that disaster relief is not a primary driver of Defence planning, but that Defence capabilities have been, and will continue to be, useful for regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief tasks. This is noted in the White Paper in paragraph 2.35, 'The Government's policy is that Defence will continue to provide a range of specialised capabilities on a scale and of a kind available from no other Australian agency. These capabilities can also be deployed in support of regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.'

2) The Department provided Senator Fawcett a copy of The Terms of Reference to the Studdert Report on EAS Disaster Management on 20 October and subsequently emailed a copy of the full Studdert Report to Senator Fawcett on 21 October.

Question No. 28

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East

Question on Notice: Page: 51

Senator Abetz

Is it the view of the Government or the Department that the power sharing agreement between Hamas and Fatah to jointly run the Palestinian Authority requires Hamas to amend its charter? As I understand it there was a written agreement between the two groups, Fatah and Hamas, was there not?

Answer

On 4 May 2011, Hamas and Fatah signed an agreement in which they agreed to form an interim government and to hold presidential and legislative elections within one year. Discussions between Hamas and Fatah on the composition of an interim government have since stalled and the terms of the agreement have not been implemented.

The terms of the reconciliation agreement make no reference to the Covenant (or Charter) of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

The Government's position is that it would only support a reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas that was fully consistent with the Middle East Quartet's principles, namely, that all members of a future Palestinian Government must be committed to non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Quartet's 2003 Road Map.

Question No. 29

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular

Question on Notice: Page: 53/54

Senator Kroger

- a) Can you confirm whether there was an Australian on the last flotilla to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza that I understood was stopped by Greek authorities?
- b) Were they taken back to Greece to be charged? Is that what happened? I would be interested to know what we know about that and what consular advice was given and what their status is, whether they're still there, if the charges exist, whether they've been prosecuted.
- c) Is there any advice given to Australians in terms of our position in being involved in any such unlawful activity? It's not the first time Australians have been on ships and I'm concerned about whether they know that's unlawful.

Answer

- a) Yes.
- b) They returned to Greece. Two Australian women from that group subsequently intended to travel to Palestine as part of the "flightilla". They were detained by Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv upon their arrival by air from Athens on 12 July 2011. Both Australians were released from detention following a court hearing on 13 July and departed Israel a week later. On 12 July 2011, a consular officer from the Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv spoke to the women via telephone, immediately following notification of their detention, and subsequently visited them in detention at the airport on the same day. Consular officers also attended their court hearing on 13 July 2011. Throughout their detention in Israel, consular officers in Australia kept in regular contact with nominated family members in Australia.
- c) The travel advice for Israel, Gaza Strip and the West Bank strongly advises Australians against travelling by sea to the coast of the Gaza Strip in breach of Israeli naval restrictions or participating in any attempt to break the naval blockade. The travel bulletin 'Flotillas to Gaza' advises Australians intending to participate in flotillas should be aware that they risk arrest by the Israeli authorities, prosecution, deportation and a ban on future travel to Israel.

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Question No. 30

Program: DFAT

Topic: Delhi Commonwealth Games

Question on Notice: Page: 54

Senator Kroger

Have there been any discussions about the possibility of the Indian government assuming any responsibility given the nature of the event? I'd be interested in knowing if the dialogue has extended at a government level and toward the government assuming responsibility.

Answer

Yes. In response to its queries regarding possible assumption of responsibility by the Indian Government, the Australian High Commission in New Delhi was advised by Indian officials in May 2011 that the Indian Government was not winding up the official entity known as the 'Organising Committee Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010' (OC). The High Commission in New Delhi was further advised by Indian officials in October 2011 that the OC will continue to operate in 2012 in order to finalise residual contractual and payment issues.

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Question No. 31 and 32

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice: Page: 55 and 56

Senator Rhiannon

- 31) What date was advice from DFAT provided to PM&C or directly to the Prime Minister about the new Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Australia? Can you provide this information today?

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provided advice to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) on 23 March 2011 recommending the appointment of Admiral Samarasinghe as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Australia.

- 32) Did the Australian High Commissioner or other embassy officials in Sri Lanka provide information to the Sri Lankan authorities to assist in stopping the refugee boat?

Answer

No.

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Question No. 33

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East

Question on Notice: Page: 57

Senator Michael Ronaldson

Given the comments by Greg Sheridan (The Australian) on 6 Oct, who believes that the foreign minister's intervention in the Gilo issue has not done our relationship any good at, but rather has potentially damaged it, do you think it appropriate that the Foreign Minister be writing to the Prime Minister regarding our vote should be before we have even seen the text of any resolution?

Answer

The Department does not comment on correspondence that might take place between the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister.

Question No. 34

Program: DFAT

Topic: Solomon Islands Unexploded Ordnance

Question on Notice: Page: 61

Senator Macdonald

Are you able to tell me whether we are going to continue Australia's involvement in the clearance of unexploded ordnances in the Solomon Islands?

Answer

Yes, Australia intends to continue assistance in clearing unexploded ordnances from the Solomon Islands.

As background, Australia contributes to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in Solomon Islands in three ways: through the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP), through the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and through Operation RENDER SAFE.

- Through the DCP, the Department of Defence is working with the United States to improve the capability of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force EOD team. DCP funding is providing equipment and infrastructure, while Golden West Humanitarian Foundation, a US State Department contractor, provides training. The Department of Defence will continue to support EOD in Solomon Islands through the DCP in coming years.
- RAMSI provides an EOD Adviser to the RSIPF through the Participating Police Force (PPF). The Australian Federal Police (AFP) funds this adviser, who provides logistical support, liaison functions and accompanies the RSIPF during remote EOD operations. The AFP will continue contributing an EOD Adviser to the PPF if required.
- Operation RENDER SAFE is the Australian Defence Force's enduring EOD contribution to South West Pacific nations, primarily Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Nauru and Kiribati. Operation RENDER SAFE will continue to contribute to EOD throughout the South West Pacific, and may include future activity in Solomon Islands.

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Question No. 35

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific

Question on Notice: Page: 62

Senator Macdonald

For each of the financial years 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11,

- 1) How much money has Australia provided in aid to the Pacific region?
- 2) What percentage of the total aid provided by Australia does this represent?

Answer

- 1) 2006-07 - \$780 million
2007-08 - \$862.9 million
2008-09 - \$922.7 million
2009-10 - \$1,099.6 million
2010-11 (Estimated Outcome) - \$1,116.3 million
- 2) 2006-07 - 26%
2007-08 - 27%
2008-09 - 24%
2009-10 - 28%
2010-11 - 26%

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Question No. 36

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff

Question on Notice: Page: 62

Senator MacDonald

What are the percentages of A-based staff overseas per region?

Answer

As at 30 June 2011, the number and percentages of A-based staff overseas were as follows (figures as listed in the 2010-11 Annual Report):

| Location | Number Posts | % | Number A-based | % |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Europe | 26 | 27% | 124 | 21% |
| North Asia | 7 | 7% | 68 | 12% |
| Americas | 13 | 14% | 75 | 13% |
| South and South East Asia | 21 | 22% | 182 | 31% |
| New Zealand and the South Pacific | 11 | 12% | 59 | 10% |
| Middle East and Africa | 17 | 18% | 78 | 13% |
| Total | 95 | 100% | 586 | 100% |

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Question No. 37

Program: DFAT

Topic: Uranium sales to India

Question on Notice: Page: 63

Senator Ludlam

As part of bilateral discussions between Australia and India, has the issue of uranium sales to India been raised by either side of the dialogue?

Answer

The Australia-India Dialogue on Resources and Energy Security was established to share perspectives on medium term prospects for energy and resources supply in the region; the strategic aspects of our energy and resources trade; and complementarities in the bilateral resources and energy relationship. The first meeting of the Dialogue group was held in May 2011. During the course of the dialogue, Australian officials reiterated Australian government policy on the export of uranium, and Indian officials acknowledged this policy. Other than that, participants did not discuss the sale of uranium.

Question No. 38

Program: DFAT

Topic: Processing of Australian uranium in China

Question on Notice: Page: 64

Senator Ludlam

Can you table a list of facilities in China that are approved by Australia to process Australian uranium oxide?

Answer

Pursuant to Annex B of the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Transfer of Nuclear Material, the facilities on the Delineated Chinese Nuclear Fuel Cycle Program eligible to enrich and use Australian obligated nuclear material are:

1. Facilities for enrichment
 - a. Shaanxi Uranium Enrichment Plant, China National Nuclear Corporation
 - b. Lanzhou Gaseous Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Plant, China National Nuclear Corporation
2. Facilities for fuel fabrication
 - a. Baotou CANDU Fuel Plant, China National Nuclear Corporation
3. Reactors
 - a. Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant, China National Nuclear Corporation
 - b. Qinshan Phase II Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, China National Nuclear Corporation
 - c. Qinshan Phase II Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, China National Nuclear Corporation
 - d. Qinshan Phase III Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, China National Nuclear Corporation
 - e. Qinshan Phase III Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, China National Nuclear Corporation
 - f. Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, China Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation
 - g. Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, China Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation

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Question No. 39

Program: DFAT

Topic: Climate Change

Question on Notice: Page: 65

Senator Rhiannon

Did Australia participate in the meeting held in September this year, the Governors Climate and Forests Taskforce held in Kalimantan specifically about the REDD scheme?

Answer

The Governor of the province of Central Kalimantan hosted the fifth Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force on 20-22 September in Palangka Raya, Indonesia. AusAID staff participated in the forum as observers. They were not involved in the closed business session. The Australian aid program assisted Indonesian Government counterparts to showcase the Kalimantan Forest Carbon Partnership (which is located in, and hosted by, the Province of Central Kalimantan) through a display booth, a presentation on the progress of the project, and by providing support to the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force.

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Question No. 40

Program: DFAT

Topic: Questions on Notice

Question on Notice: Page: 66

Senator Sterle

How many man hours do questions on notice take the department and at what cost?

Answer

It is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the time and expense involved in answering questions on notice. This is because such questions cover a broad spectrum of issues and are dealt with by a wide range of different work areas.

Questions also vary in volume and complexity over time. The department places priority in answering questions accurately, helpfully and in a timely manner and considerable effort and time is given over to the task.

The department's dealings with parliamentary matters, which includes coordinating the Senate Estimates processes and managing the ensuing correspondence, is the responsibility of three full-time staff (APS BB2 and BB3).

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Question No. 41

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trade

Question on Notice: Page: 68

Senator Eggleston

To which countries does Australia sell kangaroo meat?

Answer

In financial year 2010-11, Australia exported A\$12,555,000 of kangaroo meat to the following countries:

| Country: | 2010-11 A\$'000 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Austria | 5 |
| Belgium | 1,975 |
| Canada | 325 |
| Czech Republic | 67 |
| France | 678 |
| French Polynesia | 7 |
| Germany | 3,291 |
| Hong Kong (SAR of China) | 154 |
| Indonesia | 173 |
| Italy | 1 |
| Japan | 194 |
| Macau (SAR of China) | 11 |
| Netherlands | 1,365 |
| New Caledonia | 7 |
| New Zealand | 24 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1,545 |
| Republic of Korea | 88 |
| Reunion | 30 |
| Singapore | 7 |
| South Africa | 2,064 |
| United Kingdom | 115 |
| United States | 382 |
| Vietnam | 46 |

Source: DFAT STARS Database, consistent with ABS Cat No 5368.0, September 2011.

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Question No. 42

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC 2010-2011 Annual Report

Question on Notice: Page: 74

Senator Rhiannon

How many Annual Reports do you normally produce and what is the cost of the re-printing?

Answer:

Over the past three years, EFIC has reduced the number of printed copies of its Annual Report from 800 to 500 copies due to improved on-line publishing.

The total cost of re-printing EFIC's 2010-2011 Annual Report including printing, delivery and courier costs for the 500 re-printed copies was \$7188, excluding GST.

Question No. 43

Program: DFAT

Topic: Passport Services

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

How common is forgery of Australian passports?

Answer

Forgery of an Australian passport is extremely rare. Passport forgery is defined as the counterfeit reproduction of a passport booklet or a part of the booklet, and the alteration of details within a genuine booklet, such as the manipulation of the personal biographical data or photograph.

The design and security features of Australian passports mean there are very low levels of attempted forgery. Since the release of the “N” series passport in May 2009, 4.3 million passports have been issued and only 5 attempts at forgery have been uncovered. All 5 attempts involved either the crude alteration of the data on the biographical page or the unsophisticated substitution of the biographical data page.

In addition, the worldwide introduction of ePassports has also been instrumental in preventing the fraudulent manipulation and use of passports. Australia introduced the ePassport in 2005 and to date, we know of no successful attempt to alter the data on an ePassport chip.

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Question No. 44

Program: DFAT

Topic: Passport Services

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- 1) What is the passport status of persons who enter Australia by air then claim refugee status?
- 2) How many of these individuals have forged passports?
- 3) How is the true identity of these individuals determined?

Answer

This question has been transferred to DIAC (Department of Immigration and Citizenship).

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Question No. 45

Program: DFAT

Topic: Passport Services

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

How many passports were cancelled in 2010/11 and for what reasons?

Answer

In 2010/11 the Minister cancelled 64 passports for the following reasons:

- 9 in relation to serious criminal offences committed overseas;
- 48 in relation to indictable offences committed in Australia;
- 2 in relation to potential harmful conduct that may adversely affect the health and safety of others; and
- 5 in relation to adverse security assessments.

A further 12 passports were cancelled by delegates of the Minister in relation to outstanding debts arising from consular emergency loans.

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Question No. 46, 47

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hacking of networks

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

46) What evidence is there of external hacking of Australian Government computer networks?

Answer

The question should be referred to the Attorney General's Department and the Department of Defence as the lead coordination agencies in this area.

47) How serious a problem is attempted hacking of our ICT networks?

Answer

DFAT views any attempted hacking of its ICT networks with the utmost seriousness, and is assiduous in developing and applying measures to mitigate such threats.

Question No. 48

Program: DFAT

Topic: Risk areas to security of diplomatic posts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

The Department's annual report lists the Middle East, East Africa and South Asia as the highest risk areas to security of diplomatic posts. US marines guard US diplomatic posts abroad. Should Australia have equivalent military protection at appropriate locations of our embassies?

Answer

Security protection for Australian missions is provided appropriately and cost-effectively by DFAT-managed commercial security arrangements that meet DFAT's operational requirements and quality standards.

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Question No. 49

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Counterterrorism Forum

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

In May Estimates, Senator Trood enquired about the new global terrorism forum (Hansard, 2 June, Pg 24)

- A) Has this group formally met for the first time?
- B) Who are the member countries?
- C) What is Australia's financial contribution?

Answer

- A) Yes, the Global Counterterrorism Forum was launched, and met formally for the first time, on 22 September 2011 in New York.
- B) Albania, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- C) The GCTF is an informal grouping and as such there are no assessed contributions. Members will however propose and fund initiatives under the GCTF.

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Question No. 50

Program: DFAT

Topic: International Organisations

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

\$259.9 million paid to international organisations including the UN; \$97.4 million to international organisations and secretariats. Please advise of payments to the following:

- a) UNO
- b) OECD
- c) APEC
- d) WTO; and
- e) ASEAN

Answer

In 2010–11, DFAT made payments totalling \$239.5 million consisting of \$93 million to 28 international organisations and international treaty secretariats (including the United Nations), and \$146.5 million to 14 United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The DFAT Annual Report contains a breakdown of these contributions (pages 229–231).

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Question No. 51

Program: DFAT

Topic: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Does DFAT believe we are any closer to a global, legally binding agreement on the reduction of carbon emissions?

Answer

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) is the lead Australian Government agency for climate change. DFAT works closely with DCCEE to support the Government's efforts to address climate change internationally and domestically.

The Government's perspectives on this matter were outlined in a speech on 25 November 2011 by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. The speech is available at: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/minister/greg-combet/2011/major-speeches/November/sp20111125.aspx>

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Question No. 52

Program: DFAT

Topic: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Question on Notice

Page: Written

Senator Eggleston

Does the department have information suggesting China, Japan, Korea and the USA will establish a carbon tax or ETS?

Answer

The Department monitors international developments in relation to the establishment of carbon market schemes. It is aware of clean energy initiatives in China, Japan, Korea and the USA. On 22 November 2011, China's State Council Information Office announced *China's Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change White Paper*, which includes a commitment to establish a carbon emissions trading market. According to Chinese media, China's State Council has approved seven pilot carbon market schemes, which are expected to commence in 2013, and be rolled-out nationally from 2015. Pilot emissions trading schemes are in operation in three Japanese regions. South Korea has been trialling an Emissions Trading Scheme since January 2010 and will commence a mandatory emissions trading scheme in 2015. In the USA, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative has been in operation since 2009 and encompasses 10 north-eastern states. California will commence an emissions trading scheme in January 2012 and is also part of the Western Climate Initiative, which includes three Canadian states.

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Question No. 53

Program: DFAT

Topic: United Nations Conference on Disarmament

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

In July, Canada announced that it would boycott the United Nations Conference on Disarmament as long as North Korea remained chair.

- A) Did DFAT advise the Australian government to boycott the conference?
- B) Did DFAT receive representations from the Canadian government seeking support for their decision to boycott the conference?
- C) Did the Canadian government ask the Australian government to boycott the conference?

Answer

- A) No.
- B) No.
- C) No.

Question No. 54

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

In the May budget estimates some discussion occurred on an estimated \$32 million in savings the department needs to achieve over the next three years of overseas staffing.

- A) What changes in staffing officers has occurred since the May round of estimates?
- B) Which posts have received more staff or have had their staffing numbers reduced?

Answer

- A) In the May round of estimates, DFAT reported a total A-based headcount of 2,493 as at 31 March 2011. As at 30 June 11 the total DFAT A-based headcount was 2,480.
- B) It has been our long-standing practice not to provide the number of DFAT A-based staff at individual posts. However as at 31 March 2011 the overseas post establishment was 573. As at 30 June 2011 the overseas post establishment was 575.

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Question No. 55

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget/Security

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Reference was made in the May estimates to additional moneys for our embassy in Baghdad. What is this amount and has the money been expended?

Answer

In the 2011-12 Budget DFAT was provided with an additional \$16.5 million over one year for the Baghdad embassy civilian security arrangements. This money is being expended over the course of 2011-12.

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Question No. 56

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff Overseas

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Reference was made in the May estimates to the growth in staff numbers from other government departments overseas. What departments have staff overseas?

Answer

Department of Agriculture Forestry Fisheries; Attorney Generals Department; The Australian Agency for International Development; Australian Customs & Border Protection Service; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Australian Trade Commission; Australian Federal Police; CSIRO; Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency; Department of Defence; Department of Health and Aged Care; Department of Veteran Affairs; Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism; Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; Department of Infrastructure and Transport; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of Immigration and Citizenship; National Library of Australia; Office of National Assessments; The Treasury.

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Question No. 57

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

How do the department's staff numbers in overseas offices now compare with, say, 10 years ago or five years ago?

Answer

The historical comparison of the number of DFAT A-based staff overseas is as follows:

| Year (30 June) | A-Based Post Establishment |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2001 | 524 |
| 2002 | 532 |
| 2003 | 517 |
| 2004 | 506 |
| 2005 | 494 |
| 2006 | 507 |
| 2007 | 539 |
| 2008 | 526 |
| 2009 | 520 |
| 2010 | 573 |
| 2011 | 575 |

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Question No. 58

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular Services

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Is the department focusing on establishing further consular services in one region of the world more than others?

Answer

The department continually assesses its overseas representation, including of staff providing consular services, against changing needs and demand for services. In recent years, the department has also established a network of Regional Consular Officers, who are located at posts from which they are readily deployable to assist with complex cases or crisis response.

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Question No. 59

Program: DFAT

Topic: Jailing in Bahrain

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

On 30 September Australian media reported on the jailing of 22 so-called "dissidents" in Bahrain. An article in The Age reported that "doctors and nurses who had treated injured protestors during the country's uprising this year" had been given lengthy prison sentences (p. 13).

- a) Were any Australians part of the 22?
- b) What is the current travel warning for Bahrain?
- c) Is the department aware of any Australian medical officers in Bahrain?

Answer

- a) No. However, one Australian was detained in April 2011 for assisting those injured in the protests. He was released in May 2011.
- b) The travel advice for Bahrain as of 30 November 2011 recommends Australians reconsider their need to travel at this time due to the uncertain security situation and threat of terrorist attack.
- c) The Department does not collect this information.

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Question No. 60

Program: DFAT

Topic: Saudi Arabia

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

An article in The Age on 30 September reported that the Australian government “is warning Australians in Saudi Arabia that terrorists may be planning to kidnap Westerners in the capital Riyadh” (p. 9).

- (a) What is our diplomatic presence in Saudi?
- (b) In the event an Australia citizen was kidnapped, what would be our diplomatic, in-country response?
- (c) What is the current situation on the ground in Saudi?

Answer

- (a) Australia is represented in Saudi Arabia by the Australian Embassy, Riyadh.
- (b) Based on a clear no-ransom policy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) leads a comprehensive whole-of-government response that draws on every available source of information and assistance to contribute to the resolution of the kidnapping and to support the kidnap victim and their families.

A further outline of DFAT’s role in responding to kidnapping cases can be found in DFAT’s submission to the Senate Inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian Government’s response to Australian citizens who are kidnapped and held for ransom overseas, which is available at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fadt_ctte/kidnap_ransom/submissions.htm

- (c) Currently, DFAT advises Australians to reconsider their need to travel to Saudi Arabia due to the ongoing very high threat of terrorist attack.

DFAT continues to receive reports that terrorists are planning attacks against a range of targets, including places frequented by foreigners.

Terrorists may be planning attacks on oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. Attacks against oil interests have occurred in the past and could occur again in any part of Saudi Arabia. International terrorist groups continue to call for attacks against Westerners on the Arabian Peninsula, including Saudi Arabia. These include references to residential compounds, military, oil, transport and aviation interests.

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Question No. 61

Program: DFAT

Topic: Brennan kidnapping review

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

In May estimates Senator Trood queried the secretary on the Brennan Review [review into the kidnapping of Nigel Brennan; Hansard, 2 June, p. 50]. At that time the secretary said an internal roundtable would be convened on 23 June to consider the review's recommendations.

- a) Did that roundtable occur?
- b) Are you able to say what the outcomes were? If not, was the roundtable a useful exercise?

Answer

- a) Yes but on 28 June 2011
- b) Agencies agreed in principle to implement all recommendations of the McCarthy Review. One such recommendation was that a group be convened to regularly discuss kidnapping concerns and stay abreast of issues and best practice; agencies agreed to form this group.

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Piracy occurs in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. DFAT strongly advises Australians to maintain a high level of vigilance and to exercise extreme caution when anywhere near these waters.

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Question No. 62

Program: DFAT

Topic: Corruption

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

An article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 24 September outlines a number of cases of what is essentially fraud and corruption with the Australian diplomatic service. The article alleges the following

- Visas being illegally sold by the Australian High Commission at Colombo, with allegations stretching back to the mid-1990s
- Theft of Australian passports by foreign affairs employees in South Africa
- An investigating (sic) into the defrauding of contracts awarded for the construction of the Australian embassy in Kathmandu between August 2009 and April 2010
- An investigation into an A-based officer accused of helping an Australian kidnap his two children in PNG

The article also quotes former diplomat Bruce Haigh as saying "I don't think we can begin to understand the level of corruption in overseas posts"

- A) What is the latest on each of the cases?
- B) With respect to the Kathmandu incident, how much Australian government funding was allegedly stolen?
- C) Have any employees of the department been investigated in relation to any of these cases?
- D) Have any employees lost their jobs? Have any employees been demoted or otherwise penalised?
- E) Are overseas employees, particularly those holding senior positions, routinely 'investigated' for want of a better word, to ensure they are upholding the integrity of their office.
- F) What level of corruption exists within the Australian diplomatic service?

Answer

- A) It would be inappropriate to comment on the details of individual cases.
- B) None.
- C) Yes.
- D) No to the first question; no to the second question.
- E) No, but posts are subject to a regular auditing program and all allegations of misconduct are investigated as they arise.

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- F) There is zero tolerance for misconduct in DFAT. DFAT investigates all allegations of misconduct promptly and thoroughly. Overwhelmingly departmental officers act professionally and ethically. Allegations of misconduct concern a tiny minority – less than one per cent – of the 5,200 DFAT employees in some 100 locations across the globe.

Question No. 63

Program: DFAT

Topic: China-Consular

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties has recommended that Australia sign the prisoner exchange treaty with China.

- a) What is the status of the prisoner exchange agreement between Australia and China? Have any Australian expressed an interest in taking part?
- b) How many Australian are currently facing charges in China and how many are currently incarcerated?
- c) What assistance has been provided by consular officials?

Answer

a) The Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning Transfer of Sentenced Persons entered into force on 10 November 2011. Australia has received applications for transfer from China to Australia. For privacy reasons the details of individual cases cannot be disclosed.

b) As at 1 November 2011 the Australian Government was aware of:

- 2 Australians that have been charged but not detained in China;
- 17 Australians and 2 permanent residents in detention awaiting trial in China; and
- 27 Australians and 1 permanent resident in prison in China.

For privacy reasons the details of these individual cases cannot be disclosed.

c) The Australian Government provides consular services for Australians detained and imprisoned overseas in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR) and the Agreement on Consular Relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China.

Visits and detention conditions

Operating within the Chinese legal and administrative systems Australian consular officers regularly visit Australians detained in China (at least once every three months, however, in remote locations it can be difficult to visit as frequently) and act as a conduit between detainees and their next-of-kin

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(subject to privacy consent).

In cases where consular access has been denied representations are made at senior levels, most recently by DFAT officials during consular consultations with China in October 2011.

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Question No. 64

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Have any approaches by other nations been made to soften Australia's stance on Fiji?

Answer

No.

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Question No. 65

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell last year announced the US was prepared for dialogue with Fiji.

- A) Has the Australian government undertaken any dialogue in recent times?
- B) Have DFAT officials engaged in dialogue?
- C) What level of contact is maintained with the regime?
- D) How does this compare to other nations such as New Zealand?

Answer

- A) Yes. The Australian government and the Fiji interim government, through our respective High Commissions in Suva and Canberra, maintain dialogue on a range of bilateral and regional issues. Australia is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial Contact Group (MCG). Fiji's interim Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, attended the MCG's last meeting on 14 February.
- B) Yes. DFAT officials at our High Commission in Suva speak regularly with representatives of the Fiji interim government. DFAT officials in Canberra have met diplomatic representatives from Fiji's High Commission. DFAT officials visiting Fiji have contact with Fiji officials.
- C) Australian Government officials meet members and representatives of the Fiji interim government as required to advance our national interests, provide consular services to Australian nationals and to deliver our development assistance program to Fiji.
- D) The level of contact maintained between other governments and Fiji is an issue for them to comment on. Fiji remains suspended from the Pacific Islands Forum and the Commonwealth.

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Question No. 66

Program: DFAT

Topic: East Timor

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) What is the status of current negotiations between East Timor and Woodside Petroleum over the 'Greater Sunrise' gas field?
- B) Has the East Timorese government requested Australia's direct involvement in negotiations?
- C) When does a decision need to be made?

Answer

- A) We are aware that discussions on the development of Greater Sunrise have been occurring between the Government of East Timor and Woodside Petroleum. As Australia has not been a party to these discussions, we are not able to comment on them.
- B) No.
- C) There is no specific date by when a decision needs to be made.

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Question No. 67

Program: DFAT

Topic: East Timor

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

There are currently 380 ADF personnel in East Timor as part of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF). The ISF is scheduled to be withdrawn after elections are held in 2012.

Have there been any discussions about extending the ISF's mission in East Timor?

Answer

The current ADF presence in East Timor is at the request of its Government. There are regular and routine discussions with the East Timor Government about the ISF's presence in East Timor. The Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith has said a full assessment of a planned withdrawal of Australian troops from East Timor will be made in conjunction with the Government in Dili following elections to be held in 2012.

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Questions Nos. 68, 69, 70

Program: DFAT

Topic: Overseas Property/Embassies/Chanceries

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

At the time of May estimates our chancery in Brussels was in the process of being relocated [Hansard, 2 June, p. 60].

68)

- a) Where is the department with that relocation?

- b) Similar mentions were made of the consulate in Hong Kong [Hansard, 2 June, p.60] Do you have an update on this?

Answer

- a) Planning continues for the relocation of the embassy in Brussels in early 2013. Technical due diligence investigations and lease negotiations for the proposed new premises are nearing completion and early design works have commenced.

- b) The post in Hong Kong will remain in the present location. Lease renewal terms have been negotiated.

69) Are there other embassies either being located or newly constructed?

70) In budget estimates Mr Davin made mention of the hundreds of millions of dollars budgeted for the construction of new chanceries (Hansard 2 June p60). Where are the new chanceries being constructed?

Answer

69) and 70) Other embassies being relocated or newly constructed are:

- Jakarta – construction of a new chancery, HOM residence, staff accommodation and recreation facilities

- Bangkok – construction of a new chancery and HOM residence (subject to the approval of Parliament through the Public Works Committee process)

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- **Addis Ababa – fit-out of a leased free-standing building as a new chancery**
- **Chennai – fit-out of commercial leased premises as a new consulate general**
- **Mumbai – fit-out of commercial leased premises as a new consulate general**
- **Lima – fit-out of commercial leased premises as a new embassy.**

Question No. 71

Program: DFAT/OPO

Topic: Australia's embassy in Jakarta

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Detailed plans of Australia's new embassy in Jakarta are posted on a public parliamentary website (Standing Committee on Public Works, still accessible as recently as 14 October). The original justification of the new complex was to increase security levels, particularly after the 2004 attack. At Senate Estimates hearings in October 2010, DFAT Secretary Dennis Richardson was questioned by Senator Trood about the release of detailed plans of Australia's new embassy in Baghdad. At the time, Mr Richardson stated that the 'mistake' has been 'made on an individual basis' and was 'not systematic'.

- A) Was the release of detailed plans of Australia's new embassy in Jakarta 'a mistake' as well?
- B) Does DFAT stand by its claim that the release of detailed plans in 2010 was 'made on an individual basis', or does it now concede that there is a 'systematic' problem?
- C) Why was the release of detailed plans in 2010 labelled a 'mistake', while the most recent release is considered 'not a security breach'?
- D) Was DFAT consulted prior to the release of the plans?
- E) Would DFAT prefer that these plans were not made public?
- F) What information are you able to find in relation to the number of times the particular webpage hosting the plans has been accessed, and, perhaps, the countries or areas of the world in which has been access.
- G) When is the embassy due to begin operations?

Answer

- A) No mistake was made in making public floor plans of the new Jakarta embassy complex. The plans do not contain confidential information and are not classified. The release of the plans in no way endangers embassy staff, whose safety and security is always a priority for the department.
- B) Floor plans of the Baghdad chancery were placed on the department's website as part of a property services tender in September 2010. The plans did not contain confidential information and were not classified; however, they were mistakenly stamped "in-confidence". This mistake was quickly identified and rectified, noting that the documents were not sensitive and did not require a security classification.
- C) It was in this context that the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Richardson, confirmed to the Senate Estimates Committee on 18 October 2010 that this was a specific error and not indicative of any systemic problem. There had been no breach of security.

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- D) Yes, the Jakarta chancery floor plans were made available as part of the department's public evidence in the review process conducted by the Parliamentary Public Works Committee. The department accepts that the public provision of this unclassified documentation forms part of the government's statutory obligation to ensure appropriate parliamentary scrutiny of public expenditure.
- E) No.
- F) The department cannot comment on access or otherwise to the parliamentary website.
- G) The new chancery in Jakarta is scheduled for completion in 2015.

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Question No. 72

Program: DFAT

Topic: Overseas travel

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) Does the department recommend a range of hotels at various prices for the foreign minister's use overseas?
- B) Who is responsible for ultimately deciding upon the final accommodation arrangements?

Answer

- A) Yes.
- B) The Foreign Minister's Office.

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Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 73

Program: DFAT

Topic: Overseas Travel

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

In an interview that aired on ABC News 24 on 22 September, the minister stated that his office had not corresponded with the Prime Minister on the subject of his excessive travel expenses. However, the Daily Telegraph on 14 September refers to an alleged email from the Prime Minister's chief of staff to the minister's chief of staff stating "in relation to accommodation costs....you should ensure costs are kept to an acceptable minimum".

- A) Does the minister still maintain the prime minister's office has not cautioned against, or raised concerns about, his travel expenditure?
- B) Are the minister's costs being "kept to an acceptable minimum"?
- C) Does the minister believe in "minimising costs to the taxpayer"?

Answer

- A) The Minister for Foreign Affairs has previously advised that these matters have not been raised by the Prime Minister in her discussions with him, nor in discussions between her Chief of Staff and his Chief of Staff.
- B) Yes.
- C) Yes.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 74

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

In May the minister undertook an official visit that included a stop in Sweden.

- A) Was a hotel suite in Stockholm costing more than \$1700 a night necessary?
- B) Does the minister believe it was "minimising costs to the taxpayer"?
- C) Does Australia not have an official residence in Stockholm?

Answer

- A) The hotel had previously been used for other visits to Stockholm by Ministers, was experienced in handling VIP visits, had appropriate security arrangements in place and had room availability at the time of the visit.
- B) Where possible the Minister minimises costs to the taxpayer when travelling overseas. Use of a suite ensured the Minister had access to appropriate space to conduct meetings and discussions during his visit.
- C) Australia has an official residence in Stockholm.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 75

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

What has the department budgeted for the foreign minister's travel expenses in the 2011/12 financial year and how does that compare with budgets and actual for the past five years?

Answer

This question should be directed to the Department of Finance and Deregulation, which administers travel costs of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MOP(S) Act staff.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 76

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel

Question in writing

Senator Eggleston

Both Qantas Airways and Virgin Australia Airlines offer a carbon offset scheme.

- A) Does the department participate in a carbon offset scheme for air travel?
- B) If so, what was the amount for the minister's travel? If not, what would the amount have been for the minister's travel?

Answer

- A) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not participate in a carbon offset scheme for air travel.
- B) This question should be directed to the Department of Finance and Deregulation, which administers travel costs of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MOP(S) Act staff.

Question No. 77

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

- a) How will Penny Williams, in her role as Global Ambassador for Women and Girls help address the problem of poverty amongst approximately 35 million girls world-wide who do not even get basic primary-level education?
- b) How will the ambassador act to co-ordinate and promote Australia's work to eradicate violence against women, improve access to services for women, the protection of women and girls in conflict zones and increase representation of women in leadership roles?

Answer

- a) The role of Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls includes activities to promote the social, political and economic empowerment of women and girls, thereby contributing to the alleviation of poverty. Australia's Ambassador has a specific mandate to work towards improved outcomes for girls, including better educational outcomes. Promoting opportunities for all through education is a strategic goal underpinning Australia's aid program; by enabling girls to attend school for longer and better education, they will acquire the skills to build their own futures and in time escape poverty. Through domestic consultation and liaison and through international advocacy - overseas visits involving dialogue with governments and other stakeholders as well as in-country field trips, and representation at relevant international meetings - the Ambassador draws diplomatic and media attention to gender equality issues.
- b) The Ambassador acts as a focal point across agencies to engage in international advocacy in support of Australian Government policies and activity to stop violence against women and girls, improve access globally to services, protect women and girls in conflict and promote the role of women in peace-building, in decision-making and leadership. The Ambassador liaises with Australian government and non-government stakeholders and represents internationally (at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels) Australia's gender programs and policies. Through bilateral visits and during representation at international meetings, the Ambassador seeks international support for activities which promote the rights of women and girls and eliminate discrimination against them.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 78

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

What will Ms Williams do to champion the needs of women and girls in Australia's foreign policy thinking?

Answer

The Ambassador for Women and Girls acts as a focal point in DFAT and works in close consultation and cooperation with other agencies and stakeholders to promote the needs of women and girls in the development of Australia's foreign policy.

Question No. 79

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

- a) Please outline Ms Williams' travel itineraries since the announcement of her appointment on 13 September 2011, including her recent trips to San Francisco and New York.
- b) What were the costs of each of these overseas trips?

Answer

(a)

- Ms Williams travelled to San Francisco and New York from 14 September to 25 September to attend the APEC Women and the Economy Summit and UNGA side events on women's political participation, and to meet with key multilateral contacts (such as UN Women, YWCA, the World Bank).
- Ms Williams travelled to Vanuatu from 10-12 October to meet with government, non-government and civil society interlocutors and conduct a field visit to AusAID funded projects targeting the needs of women and girls
- Ms Williams travelled to Papua New Guinea from 22-26 November to participate in activities in the lead up to and during White Ribbon Day and to conduct a field visit to AusAID funded projects targeting the needs of women and girls
- Ms Williams will travel to Solomon Islands, FSM, Tuvalu and Samoa, 13-16 December with a parliamentary delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Mr Richard Marles.

(b) Costs of each trip

- USA: \$12,826
- Vanuatu: \$3,404
- PNG: \$5,053
- Pacific Islands (no figure available until after the travel has been conducted)

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 80

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

Please detail Ms Williams' itinerary including details of who she has met with and where since the announcement of her appointment on 13 September 2011.

Answer

In the months following her appointment on 13 September 2011, Ms Williams has met with as many people as possible who have an interest in gender equality, both domestically and internationally. She has consulted broadly across government and the development community in establishing her forward program and position priorities. She has had appointment programs and represented the government at events in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, as well as the US, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. These events have included multilateral meetings such as APEC and CHOGM.

It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide the details of everyone Ms Williams had met and every location in which these meetings were conducted.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 81

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

- a) How much will Ms Williams be paid?
- b) What is her tenure as Ambassador?

Answer

a) Ms Williams is an SES Band 2 officer and paid at that level. As she is undertaking the role of Global Ambassador for Women and Girls in addition to her duties as Executive Director of the Australia Passport Office, there is no additional salary cost attributable to her ambassadorial appointment. It is common for senior Canberra-Based Ambassadors to perform other responsibilities in addition to their ambassadorial role, such as our Ambassador for HIV and our Ambassador for ASEAN.

b) Ms William's tenure as Global Ambassador for Women and Girls is not fixed.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 82

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

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 Australia experience violence and the total budget for the women's portfolio is far less than that amount?

Answer

There are no program funds attached to the role of Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

The 2011-12 Federal Budget provided funding to AusAID of \$96.4 million over four years for ODA initiatives to eliminate violence against women and to support women affected by violence in developing countries. All of this funding is administered by AusAID.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 83

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australian Sea Level Monitoring Network

Question in Writing

Senator Abetz

- A) Is the Department aware of the concerns voiced by Tonga's Director of Meteorology, 'Ofa Fa'anunu, that following the 7.6 undersea earthquake near the Kermadec Islands in early July that the Australian Sea Level Monitoring Network was 'out of order'?
- B) What action has the Department taken to reassure the Tongan Government that any issues have been resolved?

Answer

- A) Yes, on advice from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.
- B) The Australian Bureau of Meteorology is addressing the Director's concerns.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 84, 85, 86 and 87

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

84) How many permanent staff recruited this FYTD?

Answer

DFAT has recruited 55 permanent staff this FYTD (from 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011).

85) What classification are these staff?

Answer

These staff were at the following classifications:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| BB1/2: | 24 |
| APS6/EL1: | 25 |
| EL2: | 4 |
| SES: | 2 |

86) How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?

Answer

As at 31 October 2011 there were 86 non-ongoing employees in the department.

87) This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer

As at 31 October 2011 there were 29 new non-ongoing contracts comprising 27 new hires and 2 re-hires. The average length of a non-ongoing contract is approximately six months.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 88, 89, 90 and 91

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staff

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

88) How many permanent staff recruited for the year 2010-11?

Answer

DFAT recruited 262 ongoing staff in 2010-11.

Answer

89) What classification are these staff?

See table below:

| Level | Number |
|------------------|------------|
| Trainee/Graduate | 53 |
| BB1/BB2 | 79 |
| APS6/EL1 | 115 |
| EL2 | 11 |
| SES | 4 |
| Total | 262 |

90) How many temporary positions exist or have been created for the year 2010-11?

Answer

As at 30 June 2011 there were 88 non-ongoing employees in the department.

91) What is the average length of their employment period?

Answer

In 2010-11 there were 107 new non-ongoing contracts comprising 58 new hires and 49 re-hires. The average length of a non-ongoing contract is approximately six months.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 92

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

At this stage, there are no plans for any staff reductions.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 93 and 94

Program: DFAT

Topic: Efficiency dividend

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

93) How has the efficiency dividend been implemented?

Answer

The efficiency dividend is applied to all work units across the Department and each work unit budget is reduced accordingly. This includes work units in Australia and overseas.

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

Answer

Please refer to answer to question 93.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 95

Program: DFAT

Topic: Govt advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – did the Department/Agency undertake in 2011-12? Provide details of each advertising, include the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising item.

Answer

Campaign: the Smartraveller campaign has a budget of \$13.4 million to fund it until June 2014. The Campaign Palace produced Smartraveller television, radio, print and digital advertisements. Ethnic Communications, a Non-English Background Consultant, was engaged to provide communications for multi-cultural communities. Universal McCann, the Government's master media planning and buying agency, implemented the campaign's media expenditure.

Details of all contracts (campaign and non-campaign) valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2011-12 can be found on AusTender – the Commonwealth's procurement reporting system.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 96

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.

Answer

Yes. The Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD) provided advice on Smartraveller campaign advertising throughout its development. A DoFD representative was involved in the procurement of an advertising agency, then provided ongoing advice to ensure compliance with Government advertising guidelines.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 97

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)?
Provide the details for each advertising item.

Answer

Yes. The Smartraveller campaign.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 98

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.

Answer

Refer to Table 29. "Advertising and Market Research", Page 228 of the DFAT Annual Report 2010-2011.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 99

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

Details of all contracts (campaign and non-campaign) valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2011-12 can be found on AusTender – the Commonwealth's procurement reporting system. DFAT would expect future undertakings to be similar to current undertakings.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 100

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Questions in Writing

Senator: Eggleston

What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for the year 2010-11? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events?

Answer

For the financial year 2010-11, the department spent \$4.75 million in Australia and overseas on hospitality and entertainment

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

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 101

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for the year 2010-11. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer

Questions on hospitality-related costs in relation to Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No.102

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Questions in Writing

Senator: Eggleston

What is the Department's entertainment spend for the year 2010-11? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events?

Answer

For the financial year 2010-11, the department spent \$4.75 million in Australia and overseas on hospitality and entertainment

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

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 103

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for the year 2010-11. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event

Answer

Questions on entertainment-related costs in relation to Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 104

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in writing

Senator: Eggleston

What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency planning on spending in 2011-12?
Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer

The Department's projected hospitality and entertainment expenditure for 2011-12 is expected to be similar to expenditure patterns in 2010-11 which was \$4.75 million.

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

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 105

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer

Questions on planned hospitality spend in relation to Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices should be directed to the Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 106

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in writing

Senator: Eggleston

What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency planning on spending in 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer

The Department's projected hospitality and entertainment expenditure for 2011-12 is expected to be similar to expenditure patterns in 2010-11 which was \$4.75 million.

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

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 107

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer

Questions on planned entertainment spend in relation to Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices should be directed to the Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices.

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 20 October 2011

Question No. 108, 109 and 110

Program: Portfolio overview

Topic: Board Appointments

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

The gender ratios for each board are listed below. The gender ratio of current board members across the portfolio is 36.4 per cent female.

109) Detail any board appointments for the year 2010-11.

Answer

Appointments to each board for the financial year 2010-11 are listed below.

110) Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD.

Answer

Appointments to each board for the FYTD are listed below.

Australia Awards Board

108) Total board members: eight (three female, five male). Gender ratio: 37.5 per cent female.

109) All eight board members were appointed in the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Australia-China Council (ACC)

108) Total board members: eight (four female, four male; including one female ex-officio member). Gender ratio: 50 per cent female.

109) Three board appointments for the financial year 2010-11 (all female).

110) One board appointment for the FYTD (male).

Australia-India Council (AIC)

108) Total board members: six (three female, three male). Gender ratio: 50 per cent female.

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 20 October 2011

Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII)

108) Total board members: 10 (four female, six male). Gender ratio: 40 per cent female.

109) Five board appointments for the financial year 2010-11 (two female, three male).

110) Two board appointments for the FYTD (one female, one male).

Australian International Cultural Council (AICC)

108) The terms of all AICC board members, other than ex-officio members, had expired by mid March 2011 and, as at 23 November 2011, no new members have been appointed. Total board members as at 23 November: 10 (four female, six male; all 10 are ex-officio members). Gender ratio: 40 per cent female.

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Australia-Japan Foundation

108) Total board members: eight (three female, five male; including one female ex-officio member). Gender ratio: 37.5 per cent female.

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Australia-Korea Foundation (AKF)

108) Total board members: nine (three female, six male; including one female ex-officio member). Gender ratio: 33.3 per cent female.

109) Two appointments for the financial year 2010-11 (one female, one male).

110) One new board appointment for the FYTD (male).

Australia-Malaysia Institute (AMI)

108) Total board members: eight (five female, three male). Gender ratio: 62.5 per cent female.

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Australian National Commission for UNESCO

108) Total board members: 15 (six female, nine male; including two female and six male ex-officio members). Gender ratio: 40 per cent female.

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI)

108) Total board members: nine (two female, seven male). Gender ratio: 22.2 per cent female.

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 20 October 2011

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR)

108) Total board members: 10 (two female, eight male; including two male ex-officio members). Gender ratio: 20.0 per cent female.

109) Three board appointments for the financial year 2010-11 (three male, including one ex-officio member).

110) Two board appointments for the FYTD (two male).

Council on Australia Latin American Relations (COALAR)

108) Total board members: 11 (three female, eight male; including one female and two male ex-officio members). Gender ratio: 27.3 per cent female.

109) All 11 board members were appointed in the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Editorial Advisory Board (EAB)

108) The terms of all Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) members expired on 30 June 2011 and as at 23 November 2011 new members have not been appointed for the term 2011-15. The last composition of the EAB was seven members (two female, five male). Gender ratio: 28.6 per cent female.

109) No board appointments for the financial year 2010-11.

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC)

108) Total board members: nine (two female, seven male; there is also an alternate government member (male)). Gender ratio: 22.2 per cent female.

109) Three board appointments for the 2010-11 financial year (two female and one male, including the alternate government member (male)).

110) No board appointments for the FYTD.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 111

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

Refer to answer given in Question 155.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 112

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

Yes. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, established under the *Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010*, provides advice to all agencies governed by the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* with respect to responding to FOI requests. This advice is available at http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments on 28 July 2011. This is available at http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm

DFAT also receives legal advice from time to time from external legal advisers, including the Australian Government Solicitor, on specific FOI matters.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 113

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, the Department received 170 FOI requests.

From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, the Department finalised 143 FOI requests. Of these, 83 were granted access in full or in part. 21 were refused access. The remaining 39 were either transferred to other agencies or withdrawn.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 114

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

None.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 115

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

From 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011, the Department received 46 FOI requests.

From 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011, the Department finalised 54 FOI requests. Of these, 35 were granted access in full or in part. Four were refused access. The remaining 15 were either transferred to other agencies or withdrawn.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 and 123

Program: DFAT

Topic: Community Cabinet

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

116) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held for the year 2010-11?

Answer

Information on Ministers' domestic travel costs is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD). No portfolio Ministers attended Community Cabinet meetings in 2010-11.

117) 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?

Answer

Information on Ministerial Staff domestic travel, including costs, is available from DoFD.

118) 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?

Answer

No departmental officers travelled with a foreign affairs and trade portfolio Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11. One to two departmental officers (from State offices) attended each Community Cabinet meeting in 2010-11. Costs were absorbed in the department's operating budget.

119) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11?

Answer

There was no additional cost to the department arising from Community Cabinet meetings in 2010-11. Departmental travel costs were funded under the department's ordinary operating budget. Information on the cost to Ministers' offices for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11 is available from DoFD.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

120) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?

Answer

Information on Ministers' domestic travel costs is available from DoFD.

121) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?

Answer

One ministerial staff member travelled with Mr Rudd to Tasmania for the 3 October 2011 Community Cabinet meeting. Information on Ministerial Staff domestic travel, including costs, is available from DoFD.

122) How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?

Answer

No Departmental officers travelled with a foreign affairs and trade portfolio Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD. One to two departmental officers (from State offices) attended each Community Cabinet meeting this FYTD. Costs were absorbed in the department's operating budget.

123) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?

Answer

There was no additional cost to the department arising from Community Cabinet meetings this FYTD. Departmental travel costs were absorbed in the department's operating budget. Information on the cost to Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this FYTD is available from DoFD.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011–2012; 20 October 2011

Question No. 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 and 129

Program: DFAT

Topic: Reviews (for 2010-11)

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) How many Reviews were being undertaken by all departments and agencies in each portfolio?
- B) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- C) What reviews have been concluded?
- D) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- E) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- F) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?

Answers

- A) One review was concluded by DFAT in 2010-11: the Strategic Review of the Overseas Property Office.
- B) The Strategic Review of the Overseas Property Office was concluded in February 2011.
- C) The Strategic Review of the Overseas Property Office was concluded in February 2011.
- D) The Strategic Review of the Overseas Property Office has been provided to Government.
- E) The recommendations of the review were agreed by the Government in May 2011.
- F) The estimated cost to the department was \$311,000.

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Question No. 130, 131, 132, 133, 134 and 135

Program: DFAT

Topic: Reviews (this financial year)

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) What reviews are planned?
- B) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- C) What reviews have been concluded this FYTD?
- D) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- E) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- F) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?

Answers

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

Question No. 136, 137, 138, 139 and 140

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) 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 (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
- B) Were there any changes to any of the portfolio's tenders in 2010-11? Detail any changes.
- C) 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
- D) 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?
- E) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer

- A) The department's total expenditure on all consultancy contracts and the number of consultancies undertaken in 2010-11 is available in its' 2010-11 Annual Report.

Details of all consultancy contracts valued at or over \$10,000 let in 2010-11 can be found on AusTender – the Commonwealth's procurement reporting system.

To provide details of consultancies and contracts awarded valued at less than \$10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- B) Yes. Since 21 March 2011, all changes or corrections (addendums) for DFAT tenders have been listed on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system (www.tenders.gov.au). Prior to that date addendums were advertised on the "Tenders" page of the DFAT website (<http://www.dfat.gov.au/tenders/index.html>).
- C) Details of all consultancies valued at or more than \$10,000 can be found on

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AusTender - the Commonwealth's procurement reporting system.

- D) Yes. Since 21 March 2011, all changes or corrections (addendums) for DFAT tenders have been listed on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system (www.tenders.gov.au). Prior to that date addendums were advertised on the "Tenders" page of the DFAT website (<http://www.dfat.gov.au/tenders/index.html>).
- E) Four (4) consultancies are planned for 2011-12 and these are included in DFAT's Annual Procurement Plan. When contracts are awarded, the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement are published on AusTender – the Commonwealth's procurement reporting system.

Question No. 141

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for the year 2010-11?

- Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- What is the estimated budget to provide this same service for the year 2011-12?
- What has been spent providing these services FYTD?

Answer

The total cost of media monitoring services provided to the offices of portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for financial year 2010-11 was:

| | |
|---|----------|
| • Foreign Minister's Office (inc. Mr Smith's costs): | \$88,471 |
| • Trade Minister's Office (inc. Mr Smith's costs): | \$26,522 |
| • Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs' Office: | \$27,559 |
| • Parliamentary Secretary for Trade's Office: | nil |

These services were provided by Media Monitors Pty Ltd.

There is no departmental budget for media monitoring services provided to portfolio Ministers' offices.

As at 20 October 2011, the cost of media monitoring services provided to the offices of portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for financial year 2011-12 was:

| | |
|---|----------|
| • Foreign Minister's Office: | \$9,098 |
| • Trade Minister's Office: | \$22,625 |
| • Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs' Office: | \$8,279 |
| • Parliamentary Secretary for Trade's Office: | nil |

Question No. 142

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies for the year 2010-11?

- Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- What is the estimated budget to provide this same service for the year 2011-12?
- What has been spent providing these services FYTD?

Answer

The total cost of media monitoring services provided to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia for financial year 2010-11 was \$281,108.

These services were provided by Media Monitors Pty Ltd, Australian Associated Press and FACTIVA Incorporated.

The estimated budget for the financial year 2011-12 is \$308,320.

As at 20 October 2011, the cost of media monitoring services provided to the Department in financial year 2011-12 was \$95,755.

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Question No. 143

Program: DFAT

Topic: Social media

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2011? Please explain.

Answer

No.

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Question No. 144 to 152

Program: DFAT

Topic: Contractors (since May 2011)

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

- A) No.
- B) No.
- C) No.
- D) Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) engaged McCann-Erickson India in May 2001 to advertise the Australian Film Festival in India.
- E) No.
- F) No.
- G) No.
- H) Yes. DFAT engaged The Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd from 12 May to 29 June 2010 and 29 August to 5 September 2011 under two separate contracts to

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review the department's IT organisation.

l) No.

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Question No.153

Program: DFAT

Topic: Discretionary grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

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

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Question No.154

Program: DFAT

Topic: Discretionary grants

Question on Notice

Page: Written

Senator Eggleston

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

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

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Question No.155

Program: DFAT

Topic: Discretionary grants

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

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

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Question No. 156 and 157

Program: DFAT

Topic: Commissioned reports

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) 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?
- B) 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?

Answers

A) None.

B) None.

Question No. 158

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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.)

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

Answer

In 2010-11, the Department paid 94.55% of accounts for Small Business within 30 days. This falls within the Government's performance measurement of less than 10% of small business invoices not paid within 30 days.

Departmental practices accord with the requirements outlined in Finance Circular 2008/10 on the Procurement 30 Day Policy for Small Business. The department is unaware of any late payment interest penalties being paid.

Question No. 159

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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.)

Answer

The department has a strong record of performance in complying with Government policy in relation to payment of accounts.

It does not, however, collate statistics on this until the close of each financial year.

The 2011-12 statistics will be collated following the end of the financial year and provided to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) in response to their annual survey. DIISR are expected to release this survey in September 2012.

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Question No. 160

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government stationery requirements

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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? What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer

For the year 2010-11, the total amount spent on stationery (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) was as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Minister for Foreign Affairs | \$5,811.98 |
| Minister for Trade | \$5,090.55 |
| Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs | \$ 728.68 |
| Parliamentary Secretary for Trade | \$2,038.79 |

For the first quarter of 2011-12, the total amount spent on stationery (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) was as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Minister for Foreign Affairs | \$1,861.59 |
| Minister for Trade | \$ 929.15 |
| Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs | \$ 328.27 |
| Parliamentary Secretary for Trade | \$ 162.00 |

It is not possible to provide the estimated cost for government stationery requirements for the full 2011-12 financial year as expenditure varies from month to month.

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Question No. 161

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

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

Answer

Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade subscribes to pay television. Open source reporting on matters related to the Department's work assists the department fulfil its functions.

Except in Canberra, television subscriptions are decentralised and managed and budgeted by individual work units in Canberra, across 95 posts overseas and by 7 state and territory offices according to their varying requirements. Aggregating these subscriptions and their costs would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

Television subscriptions in Canberra have the following approximate GST inclusive costs:

| Service Provider | Channels included | <u>2010-11</u> | <u>2011-12 Budget</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Foxtel | Sky News, CNN, CNBC, BBC World, Sky Weather, and Sky Business | \$18,000 | \$30,000 |
| TransACT | Fourteen channels including: Channel News Asia, Al Jazeera, ABC, ABC2, SBS, Prime, WIN and Capital | \$24,000 | Nil |
| Parliamentary Broadcasting Service | Parliamentary channels | \$7,000 | \$7,000 |
| ANU | As for Transact | Nil | Nil |

Question No. 162

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

- If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
- What was the cost for 2010-11?
- What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer

Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade subscribes to a range of newspapers – hardcopy and online – including major national and capital dailies. Open source reporting on matters related to the Department's work assists the department fulfil its functions.

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

Question No. 163

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

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

Answer

Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade subscribes to a range magazines, hardcopy and online. Open source reporting on matters related to the department's work assists the department fulfil its functions.

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

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Question No. 164

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – ie business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Answer

For details of travel by portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for the year 2010-2011, up to the June 2011 Budget Estimates Session, please refer to the answer to Question 89 from that session. Mr Rudd and Mr Marles each also travelled from late June to early July to various destinations. This travel is covered in the response to Question 170 from the October Estimates.

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Question No. 165

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary Secretary 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.

Answer

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

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Question No. 166

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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.

Answer

For details of travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel for the year 2010-2011, up to the June 2011 Budget Estimates Session, please refer to the answer to Question 89 from that session. For details of travel for Departmental officers that accompanied Mr Rudd and Mr Marles on travel from late June to early July to various destinations, please refer to the response to Question 170 from the October Estimates.

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Question No. 167

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

For the department's expenditure on travel refer to the 2010-11 DFAT Annual Report page 284, Financial Statements 2010-11, Note 3B.

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow all travel to be separately captured to provide a break down to the level of detail sought. To attempt to extract this data would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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Question No. 168

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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 ie business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Answer

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

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Question No. 169

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister or 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.

Answer

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

Question No. 170

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

- (i) There were no security costs incurred for departmental officers.
- (ii) Departmental officers are entitled to a travel allowance which covers food, beverages and incidentals. It is not possible to itemise separately the amounts spent on food, beverages, alcohol and incidentals for each staff member for each trip.
- (iii) In some cases a staff member may have a nil response for travel costs (eg if the staff member accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary on a SPA flight), for accommodation costs (eg if the staff member stayed at the Official Residence or privately) or for travel allowance (eg if the staff member attended functions involving meals which were funded by the Australian or a foreign government, then that staff member would not be paid travel allowance for that meal).
- (iv) The class of travel to which departmental officers are entitled is based on whether the staff member is SES or non-SES. All staff travel business class for international flights over two hours in duration. In the case of a single-sector trip (not including check-in time) of less than two hours in duration the class of travel is economy class for non-SES staff. This provision applies equally to return travel involving sectors of less than two hours duration. (If business class is not available, SES staff travel first class and non-SES staff travel the next class below business class.) Australian domestic travel that is part of an international journey will be of the same standard as the international component, wherever possible.
- (v) The costs provided in this response are as at 11 November 2011. Some costs may still not have been finalised.

1. Mr Rudd travelled to Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan and Burma from 24 June to 3 July 2011.

Mr Rudd was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff to Ghana, one to Equatorial Guinea, two to Kazakhstan and three to Burma. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each

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of these staff is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, Americas and Africa Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 19,593.00 | (ii) | 1,508.00 | (iii) | 144.00 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia Bilateral Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 3,990.00 | (ii) | 240.00 | (iii) | 342.71 | (iv) | 35.00 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|

Executive Officer, Middle East Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 10,721.12 | (ii) | 1,301.11 | (iii) | 386.77 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Executive Officer, Pakistan and Afghanistan Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 4,804.25 | (ii) | 229.13 | (iii) | 593.32 | (iv) | 35.00 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|

Diplomatic Courier 1

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 19,432.00 | (ii) | 270.00 | (iii) | 159.00 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Diplomatic Courier 2

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-------------------------------|
| (i) | 30,775.00 | (ii) | 665.00 | (iii) | 523.00 | (iv) | 531.00 Visas, Vaccinations |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-------------------------------|

2. Mr Rudd travelled to Indonesia and East Timor from 7 to 10 July 2011.

Mr Rudd was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff to Indonesia and one to East Timor. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, Trade and Economic Policy Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 4,881.23 | (ii) | 364.00 | (iii) | 122.26 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Assistant Secretary, Indonesia Regional Issues and East Timor Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| (i) | 2,744.13 | (ii) | 617.39 | (iii) | 98.32 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|

3. Mr Rudd travelled to Indonesia, Kenya and Somalia from 20 to 25 July 2011.

Mr Rudd was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff to Kenya and seven to Indonesia. The total cost of (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Assistant Secretary, Indonesia Regional Issues and East Timor Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|
| (i) | 3,342.09 | (ii) | 1,458.00 | (iii) | 186.48 | (iv) | 16.47 Depart. Tax |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|

Director, APc and ARF Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|
| (i) | 4,247.10 | (ii) | 2,212.81 | (iii) | 414.97 | (iv) | 16.47 Depart. Tax |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|

Director, ASEAN and EAS Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|
| (i) | 4,601.50 | (ii) | 1,968.73 | (iii) | 330.42 | (iv) | 16.47 Depart. Tax |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|

Executive Officer, APc and ARF Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|
| (i) | 3,286.72 | (ii) | 1,249.71 | (iii) | 134.29 | (iv) | 16.47 Depart. Tax |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------------------|

Executive Officer, ASEAN and EAS Section

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| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|--------|-------------|
| (i) | 3,901.62 | (ii) | 1,574.98 | (iii) | 397.20 | (iv) | 16.47 | Depart. Tax |
| Executive Officer, ASEAN and EAS Section | | | | | | | | |
| (i) | 4,478.72 | (ii) | 1,574.98 | (iii) | 209.85 | (iv) | 16.47 | Depart. Tax |
| Diplomatic Courier | | | | | | | | |
| (i) | 29,256.00 | (ii) | 1,419.00 | (iii) | 214.00 | (iv) | 225.00 | Visas |

4. Mr Rudd travelled to the United States of America and Mexico from 14 to 27 September 2011.

Mr Rudd was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff to both destinations and seven to the United States of America only. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Secretary

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 17,012.11 | (ii) | 328.67 | (iii) | 511.44 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|

First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-----|
| (i) | 9,155.76 | (ii) | 5,736.71 | (iii) | 1,942.98 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-----|

First Assistant Secretary, Americas and Africa Division

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|
| (i) | 12,118.00 | (ii) | 1,119.00 | (iii) | 312.00 | (iv) | 60.00 | Visas |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|

Assistant Secretary, Pakistan and Afghanistan Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 15,548.47 | (ii) | 1,977.78 | (iii) | 428.78 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Assistant Secretary, CHOGM Task Force

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 8,674.26 | (ii) | 2,196.66 | (iii) | 590.70 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Director, Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-----|
| (i) | 7,633.13 | (ii) | 4,174.89 | (iii) | 1,136.09 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-----|

A/g Director, Marine Environment Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 7,659.72 | (ii) | 2,037.61 | (iii) | 549.67 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Executive Officer, Arms Control Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-----|
| (i) | 7,637.89 | (ii) | 4,166.93 | (iii) | 1,183.16 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-----|

Diplomatic Courier

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-------|------|
| (i) | 22,847.00 | (ii) | 5,760.00 | (iii) | 1,533.00 | (iv) | 45.00 | Visa |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|-------|------|

5. Mr Rudd travelled to Papua New Guinea from 30 September to 1 October 2011.

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

First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----|
| (i) | 2,125.30 | (ii) | 357.73 | (iii) | Nil | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----|

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6. Mr Rudd travelled to Singapore and the Philippines from 19 to 22 October 2011.

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

Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia Bilateral Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 5,088.31 | (ii) | 500.58 | (iii) | 346.98 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|

7. Dr Emerson travelled to China and Indonesia from 3 to 14 August 2011.

Dr Emerson was accompanied by two Canberra-based DFAT staff to China and four to Indonesia. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

Deputy Secretary

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 2,813.51 | (ii) | 286.42 | (iii) | 127.70 | (iv) | 45.90 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|

First Assistant Secretary, North Asia Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 10,075.31 | (ii) | 3,334.82 | (iii) | 845.45 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Special Negotiator, Free Trade Agreement Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|-----|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 3,968.83 | (ii) | Nil | (iii) | 181.50 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|-----|-------|--------|------|-----|

Coordinator, South-East Asia Goods Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 4,273.05 | (ii) | 257.71 | (iii) | 154.17 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|

Executive Officer, China Political and External Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|------------|
| (i) | 7,021.88 | (ii) | 2,103.32 | (iii) | 1,014.56 | (iv) | 31.20 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|------------|

Desk Officer, ASEAN and EAS Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 4,276.66 | (ii) | 254.10 | (iii) | 154.16 | (iv) | 77.00 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|

8. Dr Emerson travelled to France from 31 August to 3 September 2011.

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

Director, North Africa and Arab League Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|---------------------------------|
| (i) | 10,105.15 | (ii) | 434.11 | (iii) | 93.57 | (iv) | 149.09 Official Telephone Calls |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|---------------------------------|

9. Dr Emerson travelled to Canada from 7 to 11 September 2011.

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

Deputy Secretary

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 13,468.70 | (ii) | 1,148.17 | (iii) | 309.53 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

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10. Dr Emerson travelled to Japan from 30 September to 2 October 2011.

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

Deputy Secretary

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| (i) | 6,441.36 | (ii) | 583.06 | (iii) | 24.21 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|

11. Mr Marles travelled to Solomon Islands from 28 June to 1 July 2011.

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

Director, Solomon Islands Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 4,818.42 | (ii) | 625.10 | (iii) | 254.83 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|-----|

12. Mr Marles travelled to the United States of America and Cuba from 18 to 24 July 2011.

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

Director, Papua New Guinea and Torres Strait Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 10,020.50 | (ii) | 657.20 | (iii) | 317.33 | (iv) | 45.00 Visa |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|

13. Mr Marles travelled to Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna from 27 to 30 July 2011.

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

First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----|
| (i) | 76.40 | (ii) | 448.63 | (iii) | Nil | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----|

14. Mr Marles travelled to China from 3 to 10 August 2011.

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

Director, China Economic and Trade Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 7,533.92 | (ii) | 2,855.62 | (iii) | 667.69 | (iv) | 18.71 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|------------|

Executive Officer, China Economic and Trade Section

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|
| (i) | 4,841.20 | (ii) | 945.11 | (iii) | 498.31 | (iv) | 33.18 Visa |
|-----|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------------|

15. Mr Marles travelled to Solomon Islands, Kiribati and New Zealand from 3 to 10 September 2011.

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Mr Marles was accompanied by one Canberra-based DFAT staff to Solomon Islands and Kiribati and one to New Zealand. The total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) travel allowance, and (iv) any other expenses for each of these staff is as follows:

First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| (i) | 2,996.55 | (ii) | 1,514.38 | (iii) | 87.70 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|-------|------|-----|

Assistant Secretary, Pacific Islands Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----|
| (i) | 73.32 | (ii) | 225.34 | (iii) | Nil | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----|

16. Mr Marles travelled to the United States of America from 2 to 6 October 2011.

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

17. Mr Marles travelled to Papua New Guinea from 18 to 21 October 2011.

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

Assistant Secretary, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|-----|------|-----|
| (i) | 5,228.29 | (ii) | 1,099.72 | (iii) | Nil | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|-----|------|-----|

Executive Officer, Executive, Planning and Evaluation Branch

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| (i) | 5,162.88 | (ii) | 1,185.36 | (iii) | 439.12 | (iv) | Nil |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-------|--------|------|-----|

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Question No. 171

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For the year FYTD, 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

For this financial year the Department has spent \$7.25 million to 30 September 2011 on travel. This figure includes airfares, accommodation, meals and other expenses.

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow all travel to be separately captured to provide a break down to the level of detail sought. To attempt to extract this data would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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Questions No. 172 to 179

Program: DFAT

Topic: Legal Costs

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) What sum did the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- B) What sum did the department 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 the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- D) What sum did the department spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- E) What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD within the department? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- F) What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- G) What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- H) What sum did the department spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer

- A) The total expenditure by the department on external legal services for the financial year 2010-11 was \$1 964 654. This figure includes all legal services expenditure by posts overseas as well as all legal expenditure by divisions in Canberra.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total legal services expenditure according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.
- B) The total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the financial year 2010-11 was \$1 194 652 broken down as follows: (i) \$358 195 for commercial advice; (ii) \$470 870 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$365 587 for general advice.
- C) The total expenditure by the department on legal services from private firms in Australia for the financial year 2010-11 was \$980 536 which can be broken down into the following service categories: (i) \$613 446 for commercial advice; (ii) \$160 782 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$206 308 for general advice.
- D) The figures provided above in relation to total expenditure by the department on

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legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor and private firms do not include the expenditure on legal services by posts overseas. Expenditure on these services was \$459 956 for the year 2010-11.

It is not possible to provide a further breakdown of the total external legal services expenditure by posts overseas according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.

- E) The total expenditure by the department on external legal services for the financial year to the end of October 2011 was \$657 167.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total legal services expenditure according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.

- F) The total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor for the financial year to 15 November 2011 was \$699 332 broken down as follows: (i) \$555 003 for commercial advice; (ii) \$61 756 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$82 573 for general advice.

- G) The total expenditure by the department on legal services from private firms in Australia for the financial year to 15 November 2011 was \$226 233.76 broken down as follows: (i) \$194 170.16 for commercial advice; (ii) \$15 281.60 for litigation and dispute resolution; and (iii) \$16 782 for general advice.

- H) The figures provided above in relation to total expenditure by the department on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor and private firms do not include the external legal services expenditure by posts overseas. This additional amount was \$309 296 for the financial year to the end of October 2011.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total external legal services expenditure by posts overseas according to each service and its cost. To do so would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources.

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Question No. 180

Program: DFAT

Topic: Education expenses

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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 cost and how many participants and the amount of study leave granted.

Answer

In 2010-11, 35 DFAT employees undertook undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the following disciplines:

Accounting
Administration
Asian Studies
Business
Development Studies
Economics
Information Management
Information Systems
International Relations
Law
Management
Project Management
Psychology
Public Administration
Science
Security Studies
Strategic Affairs
Strategic Studies
Translation (Korean)

The total cost of education expenses was \$195,384 and 1480 hours of study leave was approved.

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Question No. 181

Program: DFAT

Topic: Education expenses

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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 cost and how many participants and the amount of study leave granted.

Answer

For the FYTD, 12 DFAT employees are undertaking undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the following disciplines:

Business

Commerce

Finance

International Relations

Law

Management

Science

Strategic Affairs

Translation (Korean)

The total cost of education expenses this FYTD is \$15,122 and 840 hours of study leave have been approved.

Question Nos. 182, 183 and 184

Program: DFAT

Topic: Executive Coaching & Leadership Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- 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 FY 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 and their employment classification
 - iv) The names of all service providers engaged
- B) For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:
- i) The name and nature of the service purchased
 - ii) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
 - iii) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
 - 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) During 2010-11, \$4600 was spent on executive coaching and \$295,269 on leadership training services.
- ii) Four Executive Level 1 employees were offered and took part in coaching services. A total of 947 employees were offered leadership training including: SES officers; Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1 officers.
- iii) A total of 145 employees engaged in leadership training including: SES officers; Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1 officers.
- iv) The May Group was the provider of the executive coaching services

noted at 1b. Providers engaged for leadership development services in 2010-11 were: Yellow Edge; the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School; Melbourne Business School; and The Cranlana Programme.

- B)
 - i) Executive coaching services were provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership programs were group based.
 - ii) Executive coaching and leadership training totalled 2744 hours for all employees.
- C)
 - i) Training locations that were used externally included: the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston; Melbourne Business School; The May Group in Canberra, MTAA House Pty Ltd (Canberra); The Brassey Hotel (Canberra) and The Cranlana Programme in Canberra.
 - ii) A total of 53 employees were trained at external locations.
 - iii) Training provided at external locations totally approximately 1048 hours.
 - iv) The cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of leadership training for DFAT executives was \$2900.

Question No. 185, 186 and 187

Program: DFAT

Topic: Executive Coaching & Leadership Training

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- 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 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 and their employment classification
 - iv) The names of all service providers engaged
- B) For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:
- The name and nature of the service purchased
- i) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
 - ii) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
 - iii) The total number of hours involved for all employees
 - iv) The total amount spent on the service
 - v) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
- C) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
- i) The location used
 - ii) The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - 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) FYTD, \$6930 has been spent on executive coaching and \$130,344 on leadership training services.
- ii) Two Executive Level 1 employees have been offered and have taken part in coaching services. A total of 729 employees were offered leadership training including: SES officers; Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1 officers.
- iii) A total of 43 employees engaged in leadership training including: SES officers; Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1 officers.
- iv) The May Group was the provider of the executive coaching services noted at

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1b. Providers engaged for leadership development services in 2010-11 were: Yellow Edge; the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School; and Melbourne Business School.

- B) ii) Executive coaching services were provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership programs were group based.
- iv) Executive coaching and leadership training totalled approximately 955 hours for all executive employees.
- C) i) Training locations that were used externally included: the Australian Public Service Commission; the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston; Melbourne Business School; The May Group in Canberra and MTAA House Pty Ltd (Canberra).
- ii) A total of 23 employees were trained at external locations.
- iii) Training provided at external locations totalled approximately 705 hours.
- iv) The cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of leadership training for DFAT executives was \$800.

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Question No.188

Program: DFAT

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

As eligibility is based on primary caring responsibility, the number of eligible staff cannot be identified.

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Question No.189

Program: DFAT

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

For the year 2010-11 list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payment under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer

For the year 2010-11 no payments were made as the Family Assistance Office did not advise DFAT of any eligible employees.

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Question No.190

Program: DFAT

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

For the FYTD DFAT has provided six employees with Parental Leave payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme.

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Question No. 191

Program: DFAT

Topic: Training for portfolio minister and parliamentary secretaries

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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 has nil expenditure for the year 2010-11 and nil expenditure for the FYTD on training for portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

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Question No. 192

Program: DFAT

Topic: Corporate cars

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

How many cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio?

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade owns 403 cars.

The Export Finance and Insurance Corporation owns 12 cars.

The department notes that the other DFAT portfolio agencies have been asked the same question and will reply separately.

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Question No. 193

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator: Eggleston

Where is the car/s located?

Answer

The cars owned by DFAT are located across the department's overseas network.

The cars owned by the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation are located in Sydney.

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Question No. 194

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

What is the car/s used for?

Answer

DFAT maintains vehicle fleets at its overseas posts to facilitate post operations and to meet the everyday official transport needs of the post. They are provided to facilitate effective discharge of the mission's operational requirements.

The EFIC cars are maintained through salary sacrifice arrangements and are for personal use.

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Question No. 195 and 196

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator: Eggleston

195) What is the cost of each car for 2010-11?

196) How far did each car travel in 2010-11?

Answer

195 and 196: DFAT: Details of car costs and mileage are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide costs and mileage for each car would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.

195 and 196 EFIC: There is no cost to EFIC, as all costs are recouped from staff via depreciation contributions and amortisation of purchase price and from resale funds and running costs through their pay per fortnight as part of salary sacrifice arrangements.

Kilometres travelled over FBT year 10-11:

- 1 – 15,072 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 2 – 3,200 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 3 – 17,010 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 4 – 2,503 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 13 Aug 10)
- 5 – 6,677 klm – (13 Aug 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 6 – 25,017 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 7 – 32,302 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 8 – 8,905 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 13 Jul 10)
- 9 – 14,500 klm – (10 Sep 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 10 – 23,088 klm – (1 Apr 10 – 25 Feb 11)
- 11 – 17,175 klm – (31 Aug 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 12 – 12,135 klm – (13 Aug 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 13 – 21,515 klm – (3 Jun 10 – 31 Mar 11)
- 14 – 2,141 klm – (9 Nov 10 – 31 Mar 11)

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Question No. 197

Program: DFAT

Topic: Taxi costs

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

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

Questions No. 198 to 203

Program: DFAT

Topic: Credit cards

Questions in Writing

Senator Eggleston

- A) How many staff in each department and agency has a corporate credit card? What is their classification?
- B) What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
- C) How is corporate credit card use monitored?
- D) What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
- E) Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
- F) What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer

- A) At 30 September 2011 390 officers had an Australian credit card. Information on officers' classifications and credit cards issued by DFAT overseas offices is not maintained centrally. It would entail a significant diversion of resources to collate this information and, in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- B) If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.
- C) Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements for Australian issued cards is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.
- D) The matter is referred to the department's Conduct and Ethics Unit for investigation. If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.
- E) Departmental records over the last five years show no instances of misuse of credit cards. To go back further would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, we do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- F) Cardholders are required to sign an agreement that sets out the conditions of use of the credit card, including the need to safeguard the card and card number and to provide supporting documentation to substantiate transactions. Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.

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Question No. 204

Program: DFAT

Topic: Carbon tax legislation

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

How was your department/agency consulted in the development of the carbon price package?

Answer

The Department was consulted through its participation in interdepartmental committee meetings and through the formal consultation processes for Cabinet submissions, as well as informal inter-agency contact.

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Question No. 205

Program: DFAT

Topic: Carbon tax legislation

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Is the carbon price package consistent with all of the policies in your department/agency?

Answer

Yes.

Question No. 206

Program: DFAT

Topic: Communications

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

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

Answer

A wide range of staff, particularly at overseas posts, have public communications responsibilities in the course of promoting Australia and its interests overseas. In Canberra, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has an estimated Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of 25.96 working formally in communication roles.

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Actual FTE</u> | <u>Classification</u> |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Senior Departmental Spokesperson | 1 | SES Band 1 |
| Public Diplomacy including Councils, Foundations & Institutes (e.g. Australia-Indonesia Council) | 10.0 | APS4 – SES Band 1 |
| Media Liaison | 5 | APS6 – EL2 |
| Web Management | 5 | APS4 – EL2 |
| Speechwriters | 2 | EL1 – EL2 |
| Smarttraveller (travel advice) | 1 | APS6 |
| Trade Advocacy and Outreach | 0.66 | APS6 – EL2 |
| Australian Passports Office | 0.3 | APS4 – EL2 |
| Sanctions and Transnational Crime outreach | 1 | APS6 – EL2 |

The key guidelines for departmental communications staff are an Administrative Circular on engaging with the media, and a Public Diplomacy Handbook.

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Questions No. 207, 208, 209, 210 and 211

Program: DFAT

Topic: Currency

Questions in Writing

Senator Xenophon

- A) Will Australia participate in the WTO Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance in 212 and the workshop proposed by Brazil into available tools and trade remedies to compensate or redress currency fluctuations?
- B) What position will the Australia be taking to the meetings? Does the Department support the Treasurer's statement at the recent Tax Forum that "all countries should move to market-determined exchange rates"?
- C) Are there any existing trade remedies available to support Australian industries which compete against imports from countries who do not have floated currencies?
- D) Have any discussions been had within the Department or between the Department and the Minister about this issue?
- E) If yes, what was the nature of these conversations and what were the outcomes?

Answers

- A) Yes
- B) Australia's position is under formulation and will reflect whole-of-government views. While WTO Members agreed to the holding of a workshop on the relationship between exchange rates and trade, the details have not been finalised and are still under discussion.
- C) Existing trade remedy rules address unfair trading practices such as dumped or subsidised imports which cause injury to domestic industry. These rules are not specifically designed to address currency policies. We are not aware of any country that has imposed anti-dumping or countervailing duties in response to an alleged currency undervaluation. Australia has not done so.
- D) Yes
- E) Discussions within the Department are on-going.

Questions No. 212 to 246

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia Network

Questions in Writing

Senator Birmingham

212) Did the tender panel made a recommendation on the original tender? Was the recommendation unanimous? To whom was the recommendation made? Was a brief prepared for the minister and/or cabinet on the basis of the recommendation? If so, when was it prepared and when was it considered by the minister and/or cabinet? If a brief was prepared for a minister, which minister?

Answer

212) In the period since Senator Birmingham submitted Questions on Notice 212 to 246, the Government terminated the Australia Network tender process due to significant leaks of confidential information to the media and referred the matter to the Australian Federal Police for investigation. The Auditor-General has also decided to conduct a performance audit of the administration of the Australia Network tender processes. As the Questions on Notice go to matters being considered by the Australian Federal Police and Australian National Audit Office, it would not be appropriate to comment.

213) Has the tender panel made a recommendation on the revised tender? Was the recommendation unanimous? To whom was the recommendation made? Was a brief prepared for the minister and/or cabinet on the basis of the recommendation? If so, when was it prepared and when was it considered by the minister and/or cabinet? If a brief was prepared for a minister, which minister?

Answer

213) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

214) Who is the final decision maker under the revised tender process? Has a decision been made? When was a decision due? The Prime Minister's press release of 24 June 2011 stated that "a decision on Preferred Tenderer is expected to be taken by September 2011" – has this deadline been met? If not, why not? If so, why has no announcement been made on the Preferred Tenderer?

Answer

214) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

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215) What changes have been made to the composition of the Tender Evaluation Panel since the tender process started? Please detail each change in membership (both of individuals and of departments), when such changes occurred and why such changes occurred.

Answer

215) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

216) On what basis could the Minister or Cabinet determine an outcome contrary to the tender panel recommendation?

Answer

216) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

217) Would the Minister or Cabinet be required to publicly explain any such contrary decision?

Answer

217) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

218) How is the tender requirement for bidders to show how their operation of the Australia network service would meet the national interests of Australia being assessed?

Answer

218) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

219) Does the Australia Network currently broadcast into the Middle-East?

Answer

219) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

220) Does the Government have plans to expand the Network to broadcast in the Middle-East?

Answer

220) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

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221) Did the Department provide any advice to Government suggesting that the ability to cover events in the Middle-East were essential to the operation of the Australia Network?

Answer

221) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

222) Were Australian Consular officials in the middle-East or Asia-Pacific consulted about the needs or benefits of the Australia Network covering Middle-Eastern news events?

Answer

222) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

223) Please explain why it has been suggested that the events of the Arab Spring prompted the revised tender.

Answer

223) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

224) Have any tendering parties contacted Executive level Departmental officials who are/was not the designated tender liaison officer? Was the Australia Network tender discussed in any such conversations?

Answer

224) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

225) Will the long delay in announcing this tender mean that handover of service operation will have to be delayed to ensure Sky News has sufficient time to prepare for its role operating the Network, should they have been the successful bidder? In these circumstances has a further extension to the ABC's contract to operate the network been discussed or granted?

Answer

225) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

226) Who made the decision to alter the Request for Tender? On what basis? What

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advice was provided to the decision maker on this matter, by whom and when?

Answer

226) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

227) Has final decision making authority moved from DFAT to DBCDE or is it just ministerial responsibility that has changed? What roles to officials within DFAT still have in the tender process? Who are those officials within DFAT reporting to on the tender process? Who is the DFAT secretary reporting to on the tender process? How many meeting have been had between Minister Conroy and departmental officials (including the DFAT secretary) about the tender process? When were these meetings? What discussions have the two Departments had in relation to the Australia Network tender? What discussions or meetings have Minister Conroy and Minister Rudd had about the Australia Network tender? Please detail the timing of all meetings and discussions between the ministers.

Answer

227) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

228) Has the Department received any feedback from its consular officials overseas regarding the tender process? If so, please detail.

Answer

228) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

229) What cost has the Department incurred resulting from the Australia Network tender process? Please provide a breakdown of all costs.

Answer

229) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

230) In the Government's press release announcing the amendment to Australia Network tender, it stated that given the changed international circumstances the decision-making power would be turned over to the Cabinet. The reasons the Government gave in the press release were 'the increasing influence of the key emerging markets on the global economy, significant political transformation occurring across the Middle East, and North Africa, and the need identified during recent consular crises for strengthened associated information services.' Given these are areas within the scope of the Foreign Minister's portfolio, could the Department

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outline why the Minister for Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy is the best person to advise Cabinet on the tender process?

Answer

230) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

231) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs receive a brief from his department seeking approval of text contained in the request for tender for the Australia Network contract and/or associated documents before their release; if so, (a) on what date (i) was the brief received by his office, and (ii) did he sight the brief, and (b) can he indicate what type of ministerial action was requested by his department, and what resulting action he took.

Answer

231) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

232) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff request changes to the text contained in the request for tender and/or associated documents for the Australia Network contract; if so, on what date, and can he indicate the nature of the requested changes.

Answer

232) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

233) Was the final version of the request for tender and associated documents for the Australia Network contract approved by Cabinet or the Minister for Foreign Affairs; if so, on what date.

Answer

233) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

234) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff receive a briefing, written or verbal, from his department or a member of the tender panel regarding any of the information provided by tenderers in their tender submissions for the Australia Network contract; if so, on what date, and can he indicate the nature of the information provided.

Answer

234) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

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235) Did the tender assessment panel view both tenderers for the Australia Network contract as meeting the requirements of tender?

Answer

235) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

236) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff receive a briefing, written or verbal, from his department or a member of the tender panel for the Australia Network contract regarding the panel's progress? If so, please detail.

Answer

236) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

237) On what date was the report of the tender panel for the Australia Network contract first sighted by the Secretary of DFAT?

Answer

237) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

238) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff receive a briefing, written or verbal, from his department regarding the report of the tender panel for the Australia Network contract, including any recommendation on a preferred tenderer; if so, (a) on what date was the brief (i) received by his office, and (ii) sighted by him, and (b) can he indicate what type of ministerial action was requested by his department, and what resulting action he took.

Answer

238) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

239) Did DFAT prepare a Cabinet submission detailing the report of the tender panel for the Australia Network contract, including any recommendation on a preferred tenderer; if so, (a) on what date, and (b) was input into the brief provided by other Government departments; if so, which ones.

Answer

239) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

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240) On what date (a) was DFAT first notified of the Government's intention to extend the existing Australia Network contract, and (b) were tenderers for the Australia Network contract first notified of the Government's intention to extend the existing contract.

Answer

240) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

241) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs, any of his ministerial staff and/or his department receive correspondence from, or had a discussion with, any of the interested parties involved in the tender process for Australia Network contract since the Government's decision to seek further information; if so, (a) on what date, (b) which parties were involved, and (c) can he indicate the nature of the correspondence and/or discussion.

Answer

241) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

242) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs, any of his ministerial staff and/or his department receive correspondence from, or had a discussion with, any of the interested parties involved in the tender process for the Australia Network contract about the impact of the Government's decision on the financial viability of their proposal; if so, (a) what parties were involved, and (b) can he indicate the nature of the correspondence and/or discussion.

Answer

242) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

243) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff received a briefing, written or verbal, from the department and/or consultants expressing their concerns about the change to the request for tender for the Australia Network contract and/or association documentation; if so, (a) on what date, and (b) can he indicate the nature of their concerns.

Answer

243) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

244) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff receive a

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briefing, written or verbal, from the department and/or consultants regarding the additional costs associated with expanding the Australia Network's coverage into the Middle East and North Africa; if so, (a) on what date, (b) can he indicate the nature of this advice, and (c) what are the additional costs.

Answer

244) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

245) Did the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any of his ministerial staff receive a briefing, written or verbal, from his department and/or consultants regarding the expansion of the Australia Network into the Middle East and North Africa and its impact on the Network's penetration rates in Asia and/or the Pacific; if so, (a) on what date, and (b) can he indicate the nature of this advice.

Answer

245) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

246) Prior to Cabinet consideration of the tender for the Australia Network contract, (a) what position did the designated advisor on the tender process hold (b) on what legal basis were they stripped of that role, (c) had they made a decision on who the successful tenderer would be, and (d) what position does the current advisor on the tender process hold.

Answer

246) Please refer to answer for Question 212.

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Question Nos. 247 to 269

Topic: Plain packaging legislation

Questions in Writing

Senator Williams

- A) Australia's tobacco plain packaging (PP) bills are an agenda item for the TRIPS meeting on 24 October at the request of the Ukraine. Has DFAT obtained legal advice in relation to this development? If so, what was that advice?
- B) If any countries start a World Trade Organisation [WTO] dispute settlement procedure (DSP) regarding Australia's PP legislation, what is the likely cost to the Australian Government?
- C) Do you have one or more legal opinions on whether the Australian Government's plain packaging legislation contravenes WTO and other conventions? What do they say, who gave you the opinion(s), in what month(s) did you get the opinion(s) and what did the opinion(s) cost?
- D) Why do you believe this legislation is a justifiable exemption from Australia's international trade obligations?
- E) How much has your department spent attending and maintaining relationships and in intergovernmental organisations such as the WTO to promote the Australian foreign policy and trade agenda in the current global economic situation? Has the current economic climate led to a change in, or a different interpretation of, the guiding principles and disciplines to trade as outlined in the current Government's trade policy document of April this year, called Trading our way to more jobs and prosperity?
- F) Would the government please inform us about any debate about the PP bills in the different WTO processes?
- G) A number of international governments, organisations and think tanks have made submissions as part of the inquiries held into the Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill and accompanying TM Amendment Bill. Has DFAT spent any money on outside bodies, including legal entities, reviewing these international concerns?
- H) Has your department incurred any costs due to the international lobbying efforts of countries such as the US Government, seeking trade sanctions or any other action to persuade the Gillard Government to drop plain packaging legislation?
- I) The Canadian government has rejected plain packaging on the grounds that there is no supporting evidence and that the proposal will breach trade mark laws, exposing them to domestic and international claims. Has your department spent funds obtaining legal advice similar to these concerns? How much and with whom?
- J) Do you believe international trade challenges might ensue as a result of the Government's plain packaging legislation?
- K) Does your department have a budget to deal with potential international trade challenges and compensation blowouts resulting from PP? How much has the department allocated to such costs?

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- L) Have you or your department spent any money holding meetings abroad regarding Australia's Plain Packaging proposal? How much?
- M) What international delegates have you met with regarding PP?
- N) Is there a cost ceiling at which point you would concede that this exercise is wasting taxpayer's money?
- O) Essentially, the Attorney-General, in 1995, encouraged Minister Carmen Lawrence to drop the plain packaging proposal due to the likely cost blowout. Don't you have the same obligation – to save billions of dollars of taxpayers' money from being wasted domestically, and internationally?
- P) As a result of the Attorney-General's advice at the time, Carmen Lawrence reportedly dismissed the proposal, apparently saying, 'It is just not feasible. We would have to buy the tobacco companies trademarks, and that would cost millions of dollars.' Has your department estimated the value of tobacco companies brands? How much is the estimate?
- Q) Has your department spent any funds obtaining legal opinions regarding the Philip Morris Limited claim under the Hong Kong-Australia Bilateral Investment Treaty?
- R) If so, how much has been spent and with whom? What do these opinions speculate the cost to be in the case of such an international legal challenges?
- S) Have you or your Department, or other sections of the Federal Government begun negotiations with Philip Morris Limited?
- T) Are you aware that, in an annual survey conducted by research company Millward Brown, the tobacco brand "Marlboro" was named the world's 8th most valuable brand (ranking right up there with the likes of Apple, Google and Coca-Cola) and valued at around \$67 Billion?. That's an international worth of \$67 Billion for just one brand. What does that mean for the likely cost of compensation to tobacco companies?
- U) The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers cigarettes to be the world's most widely smuggled legal consumer product. According to WHO, sales of smuggled cigarettes will overtake legal tobacco sales by 2020. The legal trade in tobacco is worth millions of dollars annually, but will be undermined by the illegal trade. What is the Australian Government doing to reclaim any of the \$1.1billion in lost revenue caused by the illicit tobacco trade? What are you doing to protect legal trade by stopping the illegal trade?
- V) Health Department officials told the House of Representatives Health Committee in August that the amount of tobacco smuggled into Australia was small, and far less than predicted by the report by consultants, Deloitte. Since then, in one single haul, sixty tonnes of illicit tobacco was seized by Customs. Such quantities, if not found and confiscated, will undermine the legal tobacco industry. Surely, such bulk illegal imports should worry Trade officials? What is DFAT doing to assure our trade partners our internal enforcement is up to standard to protect their countries export markets in Australia?
- W) If PP is implemented, what quantities are likely to be imported illegally into Australia, and how much more revenue is expected to be lost due to the illicit trade?

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Answer

- A) No. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has not obtained legal advice in relation to this development.
- B) Defending any challenge would be a significant exercise. It is difficult to estimate the costs associated with any precision as it would depend on the nature of the complaint and the extent to which a WTO Member pursued it.
- C) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has provided legal advice to the Department of Health and Ageing in relation to the proposed tobacco plain packaging measure. That legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege and the contents will therefore not be disclosed.
- D) Australia's international trade obligations do not prevent Australia from taking measures necessary to protect public health.
- E) The department, through its work units in Canberra, its overseas posts and its State offices, pursues an integrated foreign and trade policy agenda for the Government. This includes our engagement with a wide range of international organisations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). Given this policy integration, the department is not able to provide accurate estimates on the costs of attending and maintaining Australia's engagement with particular organisations.

The current economic climate has not led to a change in, or a different interpretation of, the Government's guiding principles and disciplines to trade.

- F) Australia's proposed plain packaging measures have been the subject of recent discussion in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. Some WTO Members have raised concerns about the plain packaging legislation in these discussions. A range of other countries have expressed support for the legislation.

The WTO publishes minutes or summaries of its various council and committee meetings, including the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. These documents are publicly available on the WTO website at www.wto.org.

- G) No. The Department has not spent any money on outside bodies, including legal entities for this purpose.
- H) We are not aware of any countries seeking trade sanctions against Australia. The Department has not incurred any additional costs related to these matters.
- I) No. The Department has not spent any funds obtaining any such legal advice.
- J) Philip Morris Asia Limited issued a notification of claim against the Government under the Australia-Hong Kong bilateral investment treaty on 27 June and served a notice of arbitration on 21 November 2011.
- K) The Department is funded to defend international trade disputes in the World Trade Organization. The Department has not allocated specific funding to defend a dispute on plain packaging.
- L) No. The Department has not spent money holding meetings abroad regarding Australia's Plain Packaging proposal.

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- M) Australia, through its diplomatic representatives, including in overseas missions, holds ongoing dialogue with a large number of countries on a broad range of trade-related issues.

Australia has responded to enquiries from trading partners about the proposed tobacco plain packaging measures, including meeting with all WTO delegations which have raised the measures in the WTO. Australia has used these discussions to explain the purpose and details of the proposed measures and to provide further detailed information in relation to any questions raised.

- N) This matter falls outside of the portfolio responsibilities of this agency.
- O) This matter falls outside of the portfolio responsibilities of this agency.
- P) No. The Department has not estimated the value of the tobacco companies' brands.
- Q) No. The Department has not spent funds obtaining such legal opinions.
- R) Following the Department's response to question 239, this question is not applicable.
- S) The Government has not held negotiations with Philip Morris Limited. Representatives from other Federal Government departments have met with representatives of Philip Morris Asia Limited in respect of its notification of claim under the Australia-Hong Kong bilateral investment treaty.
- T) The Department was not aware of that particular survey. The Department is unable to speculate on the outcome of potential legal challenges. The Government has stated publicly that no compensation will be paid to tobacco manufacturers in connection with the plain packaging measures.
- U) This matter falls outside of the portfolio responsibilities of this agency.
- V) The Department participates in the Interdepartmental Committee on Tobacco, chaired by the Department of Health and Ageing, which is coordinating Australia's participation in negotiations on a protocol on illicit trade in tobacco products under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- The Department is not aware of specific concerns being expressed by trading partners with regard to this matter.
- W) This matter falls outside of the portfolio responsibilities of this agency.

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Questions No. 270, 271, 272 and 273

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Questions in Writing

Senator Waters

- A) Since 2009, how much has EFIC invested in:
- (a) coal mines
 - (b) coal fired power stations
 - (c) gas exploration or production
 - (d) oil exploration, drilling or production
- B) For each sector listed in QoN 270, describe the nature of the investment (e.g. loans, guarantees, bonds and insurance products)
- C) For each sector listed in QoN 270, identify conditions of the investment that are not generally available through commercial sources (e.g. low interest loans)
- D) For each sector listed in QoN 270, identify the amount of each investment that will not be recovered by the taxpayer – i.e. the amount of each investment that can be characterised as a subsidy?

Answers

A) EFIC offers debt financing products; it is not an equity provider and therefore does not make 'investments'. Since the 2008-2009 financial year, EFIC has provided the following support related to coal mines, coal fired power stations, gas exploration or production and oil exploration, drilling or production:

a) EFIC support relating to coal mines:

| Financial Year | Facility type | Amount SAUD m equivalent | Country | Facility description |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| 08-09 | Loan | 227 | Indonesia | Financing of mining equipment for contract mining operations in Indonesia. ¹ |
| 09-10 | Guarantee (by way of risk participation) | 29.3 | Various | Receivables purchase facility for financing of coal shipments from Australia. |
| 10-11 | Guarantee (by way of risk participation) | 30.32 | Various | Receivables purchase facility for financing of coal shipments from Australia (extension of above facility). |
| 10-11 | Loan | 76.70 | Mongolia | Financing of mining equipment for contract mining services in Mongolia. |
| 11-12 | Export Finance Guarantee | 93.7 | Australia | Guarantee of loan to support the construction of a coal export terminal |

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| | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|-----------|---|
| | | | | in QLD. ² |
| 11-12 | Guarantee (by way of risk participation) | 24.5 | Australia | Bills of exchange facility in respect of coal shipments from Australia. |
| Total | | 481.52 | | |

1 \$AUD113.5m equivalent approved on EFIC's account, further \$113.5m approved with reinsurance

2 The terminal is designed for the export of metallurgical and thermal coal.

b) EFIC support relating to coal fired power stations:

Nil.

c) EFIC support relating to gas exploration or production:

| Financial Year | Facility type | Amount \$AUD m equivalent | Country | Facility description |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| 08-09 | Bond | 0.92 | Malaysia | Supply of three industrial heaters to Malaysian company for use in gas development project in Turkmenistan. |
| 08-09 | Bond | 0.80 | UAE | Supply of industrial heaters for gas pipeline in UAE. |
| 09-10 | Loan | 383.4 | PNG | For construction of a LNG project. USD\$100m on EFIC's Commercial Account, USD\$250m on the National Interest Account. |
| 09-10 | Bond | 26.0 | PNG | Two performance bonds for the construction of an airfield relating to a LNG project. |
| 10-11 | Bond | 0.30 | UAE | Supply of industrial heaters for gas pipeline in UAE. |
| 10-11 | Bond | 4.6 | PNG | Two performance bonds issued for concrete supply contract relating to an LNG project |
| 10-11 | Bond | 10.0 | Australia | One performance bond in relation to a construction contract for a LNG project. |
| 10-11 | Bond | 33.0 | PNG | 18 performance bonds provided in relation to construction of a marine jetty for a LNG project. |
| | | | | Note: this facility also includes bonds issued in the 2011-12 financial year. |
| 11-12 | Bond | 3.5 | Australia | Two performance bonds for the installation |

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| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|---|
| | | | | of pipes for a LNG project. |
| 11-12 | Working Capital Guarantee | 0.6 | Australia | Working capital facility for laying of gas pipes relating to a LNG Project. |
| Total | | 463.12 | | |

d) EFIC support relating to oil exploration, drilling and production:

| Year | Facility type | Amount SAUD m equivalent | Country | Facility description |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 10-11 | Bond | 36.9 | Iraq | Two performance bonds for the expansion and improvement of an existing crude oil terminal in Iraq. |
| Total | | 36.9 | | |

B) The details on the nature of EFIC support are included in the tables provided in the answer to parts a), b), c) and d) of QoN 270.

C) EFIC does not provide low interest loans or other forms of subsidised finance.

D) Nil.

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Question No: 274

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator Waters

EFIC has just announced a \$100M taxpayer funded guarantee for the development of the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal in Gladstone. Did this decision take into account the significant impacts current dredging of Gladstone Harbor is having on marine life? Is this an appropriate expenditure of tax payer funds?

Answer:

EFIC's participation in this transaction was not taxpayer funded. The guarantee was issued on EFIC's commercial account which represents a contingent liability against EFIC.

The Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal Project was assessed using EFIC's credit criteria and EFIC's Policy and Procedure for the environmental and Social Review of Transactions (the Policy).

Under the Policy, as the project has obtained Queensland and Commonwealth Government environmental approvals, EFIC considers that its environmental and social benchmarks are met.

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Question No: 275

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator Waters

Please explain how an investment like that described in QoN 274 can be consistent with EFIC's environmental principles EFIC purports to apply in its decision making?

Answer:

EFIC offers debt financing products; it is not an equity provider and therefore does not make 'investments'. The form of support provided by EFIC is a debt guarantee.

The Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal Project was assessed using EFIC's credit criteria and EFIC's Policy and Procedure for the environmental and Social Review of Transactions (the Policy).

Under the Policy, as the project has obtained Queensland and Commonwealth Government environmental approvals, EFIC considers that its environmental and social benchmarks are met.

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Question No: 276

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Questions in Writing

Senator Waters

Which Australian companies are the recipient of the benefit described in QoN 274?
What percentage of interest in the overall development do each of these companies hold?

Answer:

All eight foundation shippers committed to utilise the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal will benefit from the support provided by EFIC. These are: Xstrata Coal (on behalf of the Rolleston Joint Venture), Bandanna Energy, Yancoal Australia, Caledon Resources, Cockatoo Coal, Aquila Resources, Northern Energy Corporation and Wesfarmers Curragh. The project company has not disclosed the relative shareholdings of the eight foundation shippers.

Question No. 277

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator Waters

At a meeting between EFIC and civil society in December 2010, EFIC agreed to consider developing (a) a human rights policy framework, and (b) an internal grievance mechanism to enable people impacted by an EFIC-supported project to seek EFIC's assistance in resolving grievances they have regarding the project or EFIC's client. Given the fact that many projects that EFIC supports (including in the mining, oil and gas sector) can have negative impacts on human rights, what is EFIC doing to progress the above initiatives?

Answer:

EFIC held a multi-stakeholder forum on Wednesday 23rd November 2011, with participants from both government and civil society organisations. The agenda included discussions on human rights issues and the development of a grievance mechanism. EFIC will continue to work through these issues with interested CSOs through the ongoing forum process.

Where relevant, EFIC examines human rights issues as part of its due diligence. Its checklist for the environmental and social review of transactions (available at, <http://www.efic.gov.au/corp-responsibility/envr-responsibility/Pages/Procedure.aspx>) provides some explanation of how this occurs.

EFIC is also participating in the continuing reviews of the OECD Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits and the Equator Principles. Discussions on both reviews include how each initiative should deal with human rights issues. EFIC will consider the need to further review its policy framework regarding human rights following the completion of both those reviews.

In relation to (b), EFIC is currently reviewing its existing Service Charter (available on EFIC's website at <http://www.efic.gov.au/corp-responsibility/Pages/corporateresponsibility.aspx>) via which members of the community are invited to provide comments on EFIC's operations including developing a grievance mechanism for stakeholders. It is anticipated that the Service Charter will be revised by early 2012.

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Question No. 278

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Cash

- A) How many A-based DFAT officers were deployed in SE Asia during the period of the Howard government and in what countries?
- B) How many were employed during the former Rudd Government?
- C) How many are currently deployed.

Answer

- A) As at 30 June 2007, there were 143 DFAT officers deployed in South and South East Asia. It has been our long-standing practice not to provide the number of DFAT A-based staff at individual posts.
- B) As at 30 June 2010, there were 162 DFAT officers deployed in South and South East Asia.
- C) As at 30 June 2011, there were 182 DFAT officers deployed in South and South East Asia.