DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 24 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 4:31:48 PM

OFFICIAL

Many thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) – have adjusted accordingly

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 4:17 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 24 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks for visibility s 22(1)(a)(ii)

No issues with the tweaks, but for recommendation 4 suggest adding 'The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework'.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
A/g Director | Sanctions Listings and Litigation (SAN)
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 3:28 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 24 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your earlier feedback on our response to a recent senate inquiry report on Myanmar. We have made a few slight tweaks to the language in recs 3 -5 as we have gone through the clearance process, for your vis (please see the link below). Happy to discuss if any issues.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
dfat.gov.au | X | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 5:09 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 24 April

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hope all's well. We have been tasked with responding to the Senate's report on Myanmar, please see the report here for reference: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

I have pulled together a response doc based on the PDMS template: Government

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Response - template.docx. Grateful for ASO's review of our draft responses by **COB 24 April** to recommendations **3, 4 and 5**, related to sanctions. I have suggested that we note all the sanctions related recommendations.

I will be away from Monday – Wednesday next week but happy to discuss upon return.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Subject: left a comment in "Government Response - template"
Date: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 4:45:28 PM
Attachments: 1cc04967-1897-4b82-b451-7a0d2be82ff7
2de430ef-25e7-4b51-904f-0d99cf5ccdc2
2c7c847d-392a-443e-877b-5836cd1cab26
9aa7a610-7c71-4a19-be6a-eb741d986ef4
a3d2f6bc-8237-44fb-a3c3-315d78b8690c

-->
-->

Government Response - template.docx

s 22(1)(a)(ii) added a comment

Suggest leading with the examples (consistent with Rec 5).

…On 1 February 2023, we imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation
On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma …

Go to comment

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Australian Government
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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Cc:

Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 10:46:37 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

I've had a go at reframing the government response answer in the teams' link as to make it a bit more cohesive, tighten the narrative and point to things the government has agreed to, such as the Adelaide Strategy (but I'll leave that up to s 22(1)(a)(ii) if you do want to include or keep my changes).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director | Transnational Crime Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 2:38 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) and s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Could you please review the below inputs from CSN and TNC regarding the request from Myanmar Desk yesterday. Additions/changes are in red for CSN and blue for TNC.

Input is due tomorrow midday, thank you.

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////////////////////////////////////

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

s 47C(1)

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s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Counter People Smuggling Section
Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Transnational Crime Branch | International Security Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 3:41 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

With thanks to s 22(1)(a)(ii) or her unparalleled tradecraft, s 22(1)(a)(ii) giving until midday 1 May (Friday).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Policy Officer | Counter People Smuggling Section
Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Transnational Crime Branch | International Security Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:51 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) . I'm just waiting for access to be granted to the document.

s 47C(1)

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:19 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

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Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) could you please consider as a priority?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| Director | Transnational Crime Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 2:00 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47C(1)

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The

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Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and

- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:
s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____

Policy Officer | Counter People Smuggling Section
Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Transnational Crime Branch | International Security Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 1:26 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi CSN colleagues,

We have been tasked with responding to the Senate's report on Myanmar, please see the report here for reference: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

I have pulled together a response doc based on the PDMS template: Government Response - template.docx. Very grateful for your inputs to **recommendation 6**, specifically any high level content you have outlining Australia's commitment to addressing transnational crime.

Grateful for your inputs by **midday 30 April**. Of course, more than happy to discuss.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 9:22:00 AM
Attachments: Myanmar response.docx
image001.jpg

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please add to the live link then share for updating.

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 5:44 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) _s 47C(1)

Tks

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 4:53 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sorry to jump in late here, but we might need eyes from HTS on this input as well. The content of the report that Recommendation 6 refers to is focused on human trafficking and transnational crime (copied below).
I have reworked our input a little bit to focus on that angle in particular, through the Bali Process, anything to add s 22(1)(a)(ii) ?
//

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

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strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and

- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

s 47C(1)

//

The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee: *Democracy*

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and human rights in Myanmar

Human trafficking and transnational crime (pg. 27)

2.83 Ongoing conflict and instability have enabled the growth of Myanmar's illicit economy. DFAT noted that the Global Organised Crime Index ranks Myanmar as having the highest criminality score and the lowest resilience to organised crime globally.70

2.84 The Queensland Rohingya Community highlighted that the deteriorating security situation in Rakhine State, as well as in refugee camps across Bangladesh and Southeast Asia, has created conditions in which traffickers and transnational criminal networks can thrive. They further advised that human trafficking is widespread, with women and girls disproportionately targeted.71

2.85 The Australian Karen Organisation echoed concerns on transnational crime and submitted that Myanmar has become a hub for synthetic drug production, cyber scam compounds, human trafficking, and money laundering networks.72

Human trafficking and transnational crime (pg. 42/43)

2.143 The committee is concerned that conflict-driven instability has enabled the growth of Myanmar's illicit economy. Evidence indicated that Myanmar now ranks globally as having both extremely high criminality and very low resilience, with trafficking, drug production, cyber-scam operations, and money-laundering networks expanding across the region. The committee notes in particular the heightened risks of human trafficking in Rakhine State.

2.144 The committee considers that strengthening cooperation through established regional mechanisms, especially the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, would provide a practical and effective avenue for coordinated action. The committee also sees value in exploring additional Myanmar-focused initiatives with key regional partners, including India.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____

Assistant Director |Counter People-Smuggling

Counter Modern Slavery People Smuggling and Transnational Crime | International Security Division

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 1:50:00 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks, s 22(1)(a)(ii) - confirming receipt. We will work within our Branch (TNC/HTS leads on online scam centres) and get back to you by the deadline.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____

Policy Officer | Counter People Smuggling Section
Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Transnational Crime Branch | International Security Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 12:52:36 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

whipped it into shape, and we've sent back to MYP. Thanks to everyone that assisted!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Policy Officer | Counter People Smuggling Section
Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Transnational Crime Branch | International Security Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 12:33 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - midday 30 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Apologies – I was offline unwell yesterday so just seeing this now. Thanks to whoever wrote this in my absence – I think things have moved on since your email below, but let me know if assistance is needed in the redrafting.

Best

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

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Outlook

Fw: seeking views - senate inquiry - recommendation on expansion of Aus Awards Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Date Fri 2026-05-01 08:32
To s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL

Hi both,

Confirming nil concerns from GHD on our senate inquiry text re Aus Awards.

thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 08:31
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: seeking views - senate inquiry - recommendation on expansion of Aus Awards Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for running this by us – those words look okay.

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Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 4:47 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: seeking views - senate inquiry - recommendation on expansion of Aus Awards Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi AA colleagues,

Myanmar desk are currently pulling together draft responses to recommendations in a Senate Inquiry report on Myanmar. See: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

There is a specific mention of the Australia Awards Program in Myanmar in recommendation 9, and we're keen to run our early draft responses by you. I've copied it below. Refer blue highlights in the attached for further context if helpful. s 33(a)(iii)

Would you be able to take a look and get back to us by COB tomorrow? Note we have separately sought DHA advice on the broader visa/resettlement points.

many thanks and happy to chat!

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program

Response:

[MYD is seeking DHA inputs on broader visa and resettlement options..]

DFAT intends to continue the Australia Awards program in Myanmar. It is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Outlook

RE: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

From s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Date Wed 2026-05-20 14:50
To s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew NOBLE s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii), we think the focus should be on delivery rather than prioritisation offshore as they're not prioritised per se – but have suggested an alternative line so that there's a clearer linkage / smoother transition, in your email below.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Secretary Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Branch
Migration, Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Division
Department of Home Affairs
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 9:44 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for responding. Noting the remainder of the response refers to the offshore humanitarian visa program (where Myanmar is identified as one of the top five countries of origin), could we add to the sentence as follows? Using language from this site: About the refugee and humanitarian program:

//
In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

This focus sits alongside Australia's ongoing offshore humanitarian resettlement efforts, where Myanmar nationals continue to feature prominently. From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

//

Grateful for your advice **as soon as possible**.

Many thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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[redacted]

E FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 5:04 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi sorry for the late reply. The original ‘onshore’ reference is correct - Humanitarian visas for Myanmar nationals prioritised.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Secretary Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Branch
Migration, Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Division
Department of Home Affairs
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 4:23 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

Good afternoon Home Affairs team,

A gentle reminder on the below. We would be grateful for your advice today, or by midday tomorrow if possible?

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

best and thanks again,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 16:51
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew
<s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

Hi all,

Thanks again for inputs on this. We just wanted to double check whether the reference to 'onshore' visas in the text below should be 'offshore' given the dot points that follow all refer to offshore stats?

Apologies if we're missing something.

Hope you all have great weekends,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Director | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 09:42
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew
NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

Great, thanks very much s 22(1)(a)(ii) nd colleagues.

We'll come back if any questions arise as we progress the proposed responses through clearance processes.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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[redacted]

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 17:15
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see suggested Home Affairs input below:

Recommendation 9:

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

- The Australian Government notes the recommendation.
- In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.
- From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:
  - the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted
  - the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas, and
  - the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas have been granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

Cheers,

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A/g Assistant Secretary Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Branch

Migration, Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Division

Department of Home Affairs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 10:09 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

Good morning Home Affairs Colleagues,

Just checking in on the below tasking on the Senate Inquiry into Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar. We'd be grateful for your advice regarding a response to recommendation 9 as soon as practical. Very happy to line up a time to discuss if helpful?

Thanks again for the assistance,

Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section

Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 16:33
To: Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks Matthew, will do.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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A/g Assistant Secretary Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Branch

Migration, Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Division

Department of Home Affairs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 4:14 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful if you, or others in your Division, could assist DFAT colleagues with questions on this.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)– no comment from HA on the item '*...expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program'* given our role in facilitating visas only.

Regards

Matthew Noble

Assistant Secretary

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Temporary Visas Branch

Skilled and Temporary Visa and Capability Division | Department of Home Affairs

Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 9:47 AM
To: Matthew NOBLE <s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Matthew

Writing with another Myanmar visa related query. DFAT is coordinating the Government's response to the recommendations from the recent Senate Inquiry into *Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar*. You can find the full report here: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

One of the recommendations is visa related, I've copied it below for ease of reference:

Recommendation 9:

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

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We will work on an initial response to the part of the recommendation focused on the Australia Awards program, but we would welcome inputs from Home Affairs on the broader visa and resettlement recommendations.

A template for inputs is attached. We would be grateful for inputs by Friday 24 April if possible. Very happy to set up some time to discuss if helpful.

kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2026 4:44 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 130526 - Government Response - Senate Inquiry.docx

OFFICIAL

Hey s 22(1)(a)(ii)

See attached our current draft response which has just been cleared by a/g FAS SRD (no edits to proposed responses to 7 & 8)

On timing - we anticipate that the response will either be with FMO for clearance, or almost with FMO at the time of estimates. We are required to publish on June 20th.

For our own senate estimates briefs, we have the following in our back pocket:

Senate inquiry and senator statement

On 31 March 2026, the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee released its report on democracy and human rights in Myanmar. It made 11 recommendations which the Government is considering. A response is due for tabling in June 2026.

In November 2025, Greens Senator David Shoebridge and Liberal Senator Dean Smith delivered statements in the Senate on Myanmar. Their calls included for Australia to act on cyber scam centres, reject "sham elections", sanction the Union Election Commission and support the NUG and other civil society groups.

Hope this helps?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Director | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 15:40
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Just checking where things are up to with the response to the recommendations in the report. Specifically:

- are you able to share the current wording for the responses to recommendations 7 and 8, which reference the Due Diligence Framework
- what stage do you expect the response process to be at by the time Senate Estimates happens
- will you have Estimates briefing on this topic

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your help.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____

Director | Development Risk Management
Development Risk and Effectiveness Branch | Development Programming Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 4:55 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Great, thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) Really appreciate you guys taking a look.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 16:39
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Wording for due diligence is consistent with what we said last time and looking at the draft report I see no reason to change. I ran it by my branch head who was also comfortable.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Development Risk Management
Development Risk and Effectiveness Branch | Development Programming Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 5:05 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Myanmar desk are currently pulling together draft responses to recommendations in a Senate Inquiry report on Myanmar. See: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

Reccomendation 7 (point 4) and reccomendation 8 in the report refer to DFAT's due diligence dramework, and reference the previous senate inquiry into *the efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework*.

We've had an initial go at drafting responses but are keen to run them by your team for visibility and see if you wanted to note anything further? Feedback by COB Friday 24 April would be most appreciated.

Many thanks and of course happy to chat,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 16:00
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

thanks heaps for the quick work s 22(1)(a)(ii) and great recco to touch base with s 22(1)(a)(ii) will do!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 12:37
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I should have said that we consulted closely with s 22(1)(a)(ii) on the due diligence inquiry, as the director of the area responsible for the Due Diligence Framework. You may want to at least give him some visibility of the proposed response on due diligence.

Cheers, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 5:51 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I have provided input in green in the attached document. I have largely taken wording from the Government Response to the Due Diligence inquiry. I have tried to keep it short. I don't claim it is perfect, so feel free to add or amend. The dot points you have are all valid, but we chose not to go into some of that detail in the previous Government Response, so I assume we would stick to that approach.

Happy to discuss.

Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:18 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: for inputs - senate inquiry into myanmar - report recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MYP and MYD are currently pulling together draft responses to the recommendations in the Senate's report on Myanmar. See: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

MYD is leading on responses to reccos 7, 8 and 9. We're hoping to get your help on the due diligence related elements of recco 7 and recco 8 s 22(1)(a)(ii) said you were involved in developing inputs into a previous senate inquiry on the efficacy of DFAT's due diligence framework?)

I started some very rough brainstorming in red text, but s 22(1)(a)(ii) figured it would be more efficient to just come to you early on. Could you please have a go at initial drafting? I've highlighted relevant sections in the attached. **Inputs by the end of this week (fri)** would be much appreciated.

For vis - the complete pack of draft responses will come to post at the end of next week/early next for consolidated edits and feedback.

many thanks and very happy to jump on a call and chat 🙂

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

OFFICIAL
DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with eleven recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts recommendation eleven in principle
- partially accepts recommendations two and seven
- does not accept recommendation ten; and
- notes recommendations one, three, four, five, six, eight and nine.

The Government remains deeply concerned by the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, and the widespread violence, human rights violations and humanitarian suffering. Reflecting ASEAN's central role, the Government continues to urge the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of sustained development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution.

DRAFT

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained.
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Official's Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 (DPP) which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review

process will take into consideration longer term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGOs). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While direct funding is not possible or desired by civil society organisations in many cases, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components for local organisations and/or funding. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The committee reiterates the recommendations made in the committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through

the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans, DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is currently scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

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Outlook

FW: FYI: for review - proposed responses to senate inquiry recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

From s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Date Wed 2026-04-29 09:44
To s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

1 attachment (74 KB)
For PRS review Government Response Senate Inquiry MR.odt;

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Collective view is that this is a job well done. Some minor edits from s 22(1)(a)(ii) see attached), no suggestions from me.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Protracted Crises
Humanitarian Division
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 3:32 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FYI: for review - proposed responses to senate inquiry recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Only a small section for us to review under Recommendation 7 and looks like they've done a pretty good job. s 47C(1)

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Track changes not saving properly so highlighted changes in red.

Cheers,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Senior Policy Officer | Protracted Crises Section
Humanitarian Policy and Protracted Crises Response Branch | Humanitarian Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 2:10 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FYI: for review - proposed responses to senate inquiry recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii) can you please have a quick look over the drat response and sling me any thoughts by 930 am tomorrow?

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Director | Protracted Crises
Humanitarian Division
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Fr day, 24 April 2026 5:23 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FYI: for review - proposed responses to senate inquiry recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Fr day, 24 April 2026 2:02 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: for review - proposed responses to senate inquiry recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi PRS crew,

MYP and MYD are currently pulling together draft responses to recommendations in a Senate Inquiry report on Myanmar. See: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

There are a couple of reccos on the dev and humanitarian program and we're keen to run our early draft responses by you. Please see highlighted recommendations in the attached.

Would you be able to take a look and get back to us on Tuesday? We'll then work with MYP to then tidy up the whole draft pack, and share with post to review next week.

many thanks and happy to chat,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Development Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 47C(1)

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s 47C(1)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 3:03 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Senate inquiry report - govt response - plan [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: Government response to senate inquiry report - Plan.docx

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your feedback – please see attached updated plan. I haven't been able to get through to PLE today but the guidance does say we need PM approval – so safe to assume we will need to go through PMO. I have sought to build this in to the revised timeline.

I will task out the recs for different teams to work on.

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 10:17 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Senate inquiry report - govt response - plan [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached a draft work plan for our response to the senate inquiry report. I have tried to build in enough of a buffer, as a contingency, in case we become swamped by other priorities.

I spoke to PLE and confirmed that the response itself must be cleared by Dep Sec. The minsub and letters can be cleared at AS level. They will pass on previous examples of govt responses. Guidance is here (page 9): Parliamentary Inquiry Process – a guide for DFAT policy areas

Cheers,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 4:55 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report - Due COB 24 April
Attachments: Government response to senate inquiry report - Plan.docx

Hi all,

We have been tasked with responding to the Senate's report on Myanmar, please see the report here for reference: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

I have pulled together a response doc based on the PDMS template: Government Response - template.docx. Grateful for your draft responses on the following recommendations:

- Recs 1 & 11 – s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Recs 7, 8 & 9 – **MYD**
- Recs 2, 6 & 10 – **MYP** responsibility but grateful for MYD input to the extent possible
- Recs 3, 4, 5 – I will do these, along with 2, 6 & 10

s 22(1)(a)(ii) will consult you on the sanctions content, as discussed. But happy to have a first go.

In drafting your responses, please consider that we have to either: accept, accept in principle, partially accept, note, not accept, or state the Govt has already implemented the recommendation.

Grateful if I could please receive inputs by **COB 24 April**. MYD – grateful if you could please hold off on consulting Post. We will aim to package it up together and send it s 22(1)(a)(ii) in the week of 28 April. Please do consult internally if required, before we go to Post. I have also attached our rough timeline, for your vis. We are working to a broader deadline of 10 June for FMO/PMO clearance (though ideally well before then) and 26 June for tabling.

Appreciate it's a fair bit, so happy to clarify anything.

Many thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Government response to senate inquiry report – Plan

Parliamentary Inquiry Process – a guide for DFAT policy areas

Response requires Deputy Secretary approval (with an option for Secretary to approve)

Tasks

- Draft Government response
- Draft minsub
- Draft letters
    - MID?
    - PM
    - President of the Senate
    - Committee Chair
- Liaise with Ministerial advisers on timeline for tabling
- Consult internet publishing and publish response

Indicative timeline

Date/s	**Milestone**
16 April	- Task out responses to 11 recommendations across MYP/MYD - Request feedback by COB 24 April
28 April – 1 May	- Clear through Directors MYD/MYP - Clear through Post
4 May – 6 May	- Clear responses through AS SBB - Commence drafting shell minsub
7 May – 13 May	- Clear responses through FAS SRD
14 – 20 May	- Clear responses through Dep Sec - *Optional:* clear responses through Secretary - Draft letters & minsub
20 May – 24 May	- Clear minsub and letters through AS SBB - Share minsub with FMO for preliminary comment
28 – 31 May	- Submit minsub, response, and letters in PDMS (deadline 10 June) - Liaise with ministerial offices and PLE on timing for tabling (note: PLE advises tabling on a Tuesday) - Work with PLE to seek PMO approval
26 June	- PDMS due date for tabling (note: if we aim to table on a Tuesday, it would be 23 June)

	- Consult with internet publishing to publish response on DFAT website

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 2:01 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report - Due COB 24 April
Attachments: Government response to senate inquiry report - Plan.docx; Government Response - Due Diligence Framework - FINAL.pdf; Government Response - The pursuit of equality - Inquiry into the rights of women and children - dated March 2026.pdf

Hi again,

Further to my email yesterday, please see attached a couple of example responses to a recent inquiry into rights of women and children (published in March 2026) and our previous response to an inquiry into DFAT's due diligence framework (published in September 2024 – led by MYD). One of the recommendations for this inquiry refers to a rec from the due diligence inquiry.

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework

September 2024

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into the: Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade ('DFAT') due diligence framework ('the report').

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with four recommendations. The Government also notes the additional comments from some members of the Committee, including their concerns about recommendations one, two and three.

The Government has carefully considered the report and does not accept recommendations one and two. The Government notes recommendations three and four.

DFAT makes extensive use of a range of partners, and in turn their downstream partners, to support implementation of the Australian development program. DFAT's Due Diligence Framework (the Framework) is part of its broader risk management approach, applying a structured and consistent methodology to review a potential partner's ability to deliver services in line with the policy requirements of the Australian development program. The Framework assists financial delegates to satisfy *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* requirements to discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence a reasonable person would exercise.

The Framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar. DFAT's approach extends beyond the selection assessment of partners to the close monitoring of program delivery and implementation. DFAT actively monitors programs throughout their life-cycle to confirm that Australian assistance has been delivered as intended and has not been misdirected to the regime.

The Government remains deeply concerned about the situation in Myanmar, and the ongoing repression and violence by the military regime. The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of sustained development and humanitarian assistance. The Government does not provide direct funding to the Myanmar military regime and takes proactive steps to ensure assistance is neither diverted to the regime nor legitimises or gives credibility to the regime.

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Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Australian Government direct the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop and implement an alternative and more flexible due diligence framework to be used when a recipient community is in a defined contested environment.

Response: Not accepted.

The Government does not accept this recommendation. Under *Australia's International Development Policy*, we will continue to deliver a high-quality, effective development program underpinned by rigorous performance and delivery frameworks.

The Government considers the existing Due Diligence Framework used by DFAT fit-for-purpose. The Framework allows DFAT to employ a risk-based approach to the engagement of a wide range of implementing partners, many of whom operate in difficult environments.

The Framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance, regardless of the environment. These minimum requirements are reflected in the seven criteria applied for a baseline due diligence assessment (Entity Details; Past Performance; Fraud and Corruption Control; Proscribed List Checks; Integrity System Checks; Child Protection; and Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment). Delegates may elect to include additional assessment criteria depending on a range of factors such as the complexity and financial value of the activity, operating environment and delivery arrangements.

Guidance for departmental officers provides some flexibility in how assessments are conducted. It outlines a range of evidence that can be used to complete assessments and indicates they are to be based on a pragmatic evaluation of the best available evidence at the time of completion.

The Framework is a risk management tool and not a hard gate for funding, except in instances where a potential partner is on one of DFAT's prohibited dealings lists (e.g. sanctions). It is used to ensure that the delegate has the information they need to make an informed decision, including how risks identified in the assessment process will be mitigated.

DFAT is currently considering the recommendations from a strategic review of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program ('ANCP') accreditation process and funding policies to ensure these are fit for purpose and able to adapt to multiple contexts, including in Myanmar. ANCP accreditation is a rigorous process, which aligns with and satisfies DFAT's due diligence requirements.

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Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Australian Government direct the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop a decision support tool to assist officers conducting risk management assessments to make it easier to facilitate better distribution of aid funding using the proposed contested environment due diligence framework.

Response: Not accepted.

The Government does not accept this recommendation. DFAT has a comprehensive risk management policy with procedures and supporting systems to assist officers conducting risk management assessments in relation to development and humanitarian investments.

Risk management is a key focus of the investment design process and is subject to testing and quality assurance. For every investment, there is screening for mandatory policy considerations, including environmental and social safeguards, fraud and corruption and terrorism resourcing risks, as well as other common risk factors. Risks associated with a potential implementing partner, identified through the due diligence assessment process, are also incorporated into investment risk registers stored on the department's online program management platform, AidWorks.

Delegates approving investment designs are responsible for ensuring all material risks have been identified and appropriate management controls and treatments are in place. The Risk Appetite Statement and Tolerances Levels for the development program provide guidance to departmental officers as to which categories of risk require greater attention in decision making and management effort during implementation.

A strong focus on risk management is maintained throughout the implementation phase of an investment. DFAT recommends that investment managers review investment risk registers at least quarterly. In addition, all investments over $3 million are required to undergo an annual performance assessment, which includes criteria related to risk management.

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Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Government utilise any new due diligence framework to engage with and strengthen ties with aid partners and stakeholders on the ground in contested environments, such as the National Unity Government, faith-based non-government organisations and civil society organisations.

Response: Noted.

The Government notes this recommendation.

Although the Government does not accept recommendations one and two, it notes the intent of this recommendation in terms of strengthening localisation, which is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy*.

Australia already engages with development and humanitarian partners and stakeholders on the ground in contested environments, including Myanmar.

The Government appreciates the importance of hearing and understanding the voices of all stakeholders in Myanmar. Australian officials engage with representatives of the National Unity Government, faith-based non-government organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations and other groups. Australia will continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders to reduce the politicisation of international development assistance, and to advocate for access to people in need and the safety of those providing assistance.

Australia's development and humanitarian assistance for Myanmar is delivered through United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral and regional partners, international NGOs, local NGOs and local civil society organisations. While Australia's direct funding partners are mostly multilateral agencies and international NGOs, they partner with local groups to deliver assistance.

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Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that further details be released as soon as possible on the Australian Government's new International Development Policy's key commitments on:

- providing multi-year funding and capacity development to local organisations, with support as needed to meet policy requirements; and

- designing a new Civil Society Partnerships Fund that will support local CSOs.

In particular, detailing how these programs will apply in the context of Myanmar and resolve the challenges being faced under the current framework.

Response: Noted.

The Government notes this recommendation. *Australia's International Development Policy* prioritises locally-led development, multi-year funding and capacity development to local organisations, with support as needed to meet policy requirements. The policy also includes a commitment to design a new Civil Society Partnerships Fund that will support local civil society organisations. DFAT will release further details as arrangements are developed.

To facilitate implementation of these commitments, DFAT has recently published new guidance on supporting locally-led development. The guidance emphasises there is no 'one size fits all' approach to locally-led development programming. Further detail will be outlined at country-level in Development Partnership Plans, and at program-level through investment designs, taking into account factors such as country context, development objectives, delivery models, partners, risk and safeguarding.

Providing support for organisational capability (e.g. financial management, child protection policies) will be central to locally-led development: this can be provided directly in funding agreements or via intermediaries. Strategies will be tailored with the local organisation.

In certain contexts, it may not be possible to partner directly with local actors. In those cases, DFAT will work indirectly through intermediaries such as Australian NGOs, international NGOs, multilateral agencies and managing contractors. For example, to advance locally-led development, ANCP allows partner NGOs to plan multi-year programs and projects, and is also trialling a 'pass down' of a minimum $10,000 for each Australian NGO annual grant to local partners to support their administrative costs.

The Government has a range of multi-year humanitarian and development programs in Myanmar across several sectors, where the direct implementing partner is a multilateral agency or international NGO, but which partner with a range of local organisations to implement activities on the ground. Many of these programs provide multi-year funding and capacity development for local organisations. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, the Government does not publicise the details of local implementing partners. This is at their request.

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Australian Government

Australian Government Response to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade report:

The pursuit of equality: Inquiry into the rights of women and children

September 2025

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Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- Commit to accelerating action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in relation to women and children; and
- Create a roadmap identifying measures which can be taken in order to improve Australia's performance in the SDGs and in assisting our strategic partners to meet goals under the framework.

Response:

The Government agrees in principle with this recommendation.

The Australian Government has a number of mutually reinforcing national strategies and plans to guide and report on government action to advance gender equality, including to improve Australia's performance in relation to relevant SDGs.

The Australian Government is committed to genuine outcomes for women and girls in Australia and has an ambitious domestic gender equality agenda to close the gender gaps in our community. The Australian Government's efforts to drive gender equality are underpinned by *Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality* (Working for Women), which was, released on 7 March 2024. Working for Women's Reporting Framework tracks and reports on measures to achieve gender equality over time.

The Australian Government's implementation of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children* (*2022-2032*) (the National Plan) coordinates action across the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to support victim-survivors and prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV). The Australian Government has invested over $4 billion from the 2022-23 (October) Budget to the 2025-26 Budget cycle to support women's safety initiatives.

Australia is committed to implementing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and achieving the SDGs. The commitment to step up Australia's support for the *2030 Agenda* and the SDGs is reflected in *Australia's International Development Policy*, released in August 2023. *Australia's International Development Policy* recognises the *2030 Agenda* and the SDGs as the agreed norms, standards and values of the international development system, including full respect for international law and human rights. With five years left, Australia recognises the need to advance implementation of the *2030 Agenda* to achieve all the SDGs.

Recognising that over 435 million women and girls are living in extreme poverty, the *2030 Agenda* and gender equality are at the heart of *Australia's International Development Policy*, with ambitious targets to improve the lives of women and girls. The Australian Government is committed to doing its part to achieve all of the SDGs, recognising that our societies, economies and environments are interlinked and underpinned by human rights and gender equality.

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Australia's *International Gender Equality Strategy*, released in February 2025, outlines how the Government is driving gender equality through all tools of foreign policy, including our international development program. The strategy includes a focus on: work to end sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and advance women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, pursue gender responsive peace and security, deliver gender equitable climate action and humanitarian assistance, promote women's economic equality and inclusive trade, and support locally led approaches to women's leadership.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends the Australian Government, when developing and implementing the new International Gender Equality Strategy, identify gender-based violence as a key strategic issue, and identify pathways and mechanisms to support its regional neighbours in addressing related issues.

Response:

The Government agrees with this recommendation.

The Australian Government is committed to responding to, addressing and preventing all forms of GBV. *Australia's International Development Policy* highlights this commitment, for a stronger, more secure and more inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Regional and bilateral Development Partnership Plans will be underpinned by robust gender, disability and social inclusion analyses, including in relation to GBV.

The *International Gender Equality Strategy* reinforces the commitment to tackling all forms of GBV, including through increased investment in prevention and response services in the Indo-Pacific and in crisis and conflict settings. The strategy commits to increasing support to Pacific crisis centres responding to GBV through a new initiative, Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence against Women and Girls (PAVE). PAVE is a five-year, AUD 25 million (2026–2031) multi-country initiative to improve access, quality, and reach of VAWG response services, providing long-term support for the safety and wellbeing of survivors of violence in the Pacific.

The Government works with partners across Asia and the Pacific to support regional and bilateral programs focused on essential services for survivors, including access to justice, violence prevention, assistance to local women's organisations and evidence-building. Australia supports bilateral programs in 17 countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

For example, in the Indo Pacific the Government:

- Funds UN Women to deliver projects focused on essential services for survivors, violence prevention and assistance to local women's organisations addressing GBV (AU$22.5 million, 2020-25);
- Supports the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) initiative, kNOwVAWdata, which is building expertise to strengthen data and research on the prevalence of violence against women and girls (AU$3 million, 2021-24);
- Works with the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, European Union, and UN Women on the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls Phase II (Australia's contribution AU$16 million,

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2023-27);
- Partners with UNICEF on Empowered and Equal Futures for Girls in Southeast Asia to make schools safe for girls and strengthen education systems across Southeast Asia to address GBV and promote positive gender norms (AU$7 million, 2023-27);
- Works alongside the Government of Timor-Leste through the Nabilan program to reduce the prevalence of violence and ensure services are available to women and children experiencing violence (AU$20 million, 2022-26);
- Works with the Cambodian Government, UN organisations, civil society and private sector to ensure essential services are available for people with a disability and women experiencing GBV (AU$30 million, 2023-28);
- Partners with the Government of Vietnam and United Nations agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women) through the Ending Violence Against Women and Children program for integrated policies and program to strengthen prevention of and response to violence against women and children (AU$9.5 million, 2021-25); and
- Supports trusted partners such as UNFPA in Myanmar to deliver GBV and mental health and psychosocial support services, in collaboration with local organisations to reach persons in the most vulnerable situations.

In the Pacific, DFAT supports GBV prevention and survivor services, primarily through Pacific Women Lead and bilateral gender programming. Pacific Women Lead is a five-year (AU$170 million, 2021-26) investment designed to advance the safety of Pacific women and girls, in all their diversity, and their equitable sharing of resources, opportunities and decision-making with men and boys. One of the intended outcomes of Pacific Women Lead is a reduction in violence against women and children, along with improved access to quality, comprehensive support services for survivors of GBV, including in times of disasters. Australia funds GBV services in Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Through Pacific Women Lead, Australia funds prevention mechanisms. For example, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre provides education and advocacy on gender equality and prevention of violence, and The Pacific Community coordinates the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence Legislation that facilitates exchanges on good practices. Additionally, Australia supports education, leadership and economic empowerment of women and girls through programs such as Balance of Power, Pacific Girl and Markets for Change. Empowering women and girls and tackling discriminatory gender norms are effective ways to reduce, and eliminate, GBV.

The Attorney-General's Department works closely with the PNG Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) to address a range of law and justice priorities, including family and sexual violence, and sorcery accusation-related violence. Through the DFAT funded PNG Institutional Partnership Program, the Attorney-General's Department has assisted in law reform efforts to address family and sexual violence, and delivered, alongside DJAG and other DFAT-funded programs, training to village court officials on the Family Protection Act and the use of Protection Orders in cases of domestic violence. The Attorney-General's Department has also worked closely with DJAG to assist in the development of a sorcery National Action Plan to combat instances of sorcery accusation-related violence.

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Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade investigate and implement strategies to assist in the improvement of legal frameworks and support services in the Indo-Pacific regarding GBV.

Response:

The Government agrees with this recommendation.

The Australian Government is committed to responding to, addressing and preventing GBV in all its forms. *Australia's International Development Policy* highlights this commitment for a stronger, more secure and more inclusive Indo-Pacific. The *International Gender Equality Strategy* reinforce this commitment.

The Government works with partners across Asia and the Pacific to support regional and bilateral programs focused on essential services for survivors, including access to justice, violence prevention, assistance to local women's organisations and evidence-building. DFAT respects Pacific Island governments' rights to determine their own legal frameworks.

Through the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women, Australia is supporting women's machineries in Kiribati, Tonga and the Solomon Islands develop comprehensive national prevention frameworks.

Bilateral investments such as PNG Women Lead (AU$55.2 million, 2021-28) and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls in the Solomon Islands (AUD5.3 million, 2024-27) strengthen the operation and implementation of existing domestic legal frameworks. PNG Women Lead provides training to police and law enforcement agencies to strengthen knowledge around recognising, responding to and handling GBV matters. Under the Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls programs in the Solomon Islands, the International Women's Development Agency works with crisis centres to strengthen reporting quality in-line with SAFENET, a network of government and non-government organizations to strengthen referral and coordination of SGBV services in the Solomon Islands

As part of Pacific Women Lead, DFAT supports The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to implement the Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific program (PGEP). PGEP addresses the priorities identified in the 2023 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration and the 2017 Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights to support Pacific Island governments to adopt policies and legislation that support gender equality and women's and girls' human rights.

Australia, through its development partnership with Indonesia, contributed to the development of legal and policy reforms to address and prevent GBV in Indonesia. Australia continues to support the Indonesian government and civil society organisations to implement the reforms, including work to improve access to justice and essential support services for GBV victim-survivors.

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Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- Work with state and territory governments in identifying potential gaps in legislation where acid attacks may not be sufficiently encapsulated, and where improvements can be made to data collection, risk assessment and screening tools;
- Consider the viability of the introduction of a Commonwealth offence specifically directed at violence using acid as a weapon, including models which prohibit the sale of certain corrosive substances and potential amendments to Division 271 of the Criminal Code 1995 (Cth); and
- Conduct research in relation to the prevalence, nature and impacts of acid attacks in Australia, particularly in relation to support services and medical assistance.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

Protecting Australians from harm is of the utmost importance to the Australian Government. Under Australia's federal system of government, the Commonwealth, states and territories have different areas of responsibility. States and territories are generally responsible for crimes against the person including acid attacks which may already constitute an offence such as serious assaults, grievous bodily harm, torture, attempted murder and homicide offences.

The Commonwealth regularly engages with states and territories on criminal justice issues through fora such as the Standing Council of Attorney's-General and the Police Minister Council.

The Commonwealth will continue working with states and territories to ensure acid attacks are sufficiently encapsulated as a form of criminal offending in legislation.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends the Australian Government develop and implement strategies to counteract orphanage trafficking and tourism, including:

- The adoption of a whole-of-government position explicitly condemning the practice of orphanage trafficking and orphanage tourism;
- Developing stronger guidance material for travellers in relation to potential risks in relation to orphanage tourism and volunteering;
- Working with multilateral partners (including via interparliamentary working groups and the Inter-parliamentary Union) to eliminate orphanage trafficking and tourism;
- Improved regulation and oversight by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in relation to institutions engaging in (or suspected to be engaged in) orphanage trafficking and tourism; and
- The creation of a specific offence criminalising orphanage trafficking.

Response:

The Government agrees in part to this recommendation.

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The Australian Government remains strongly committed to addressing all forms of modern slavery, including by working with multilateral partners to eliminate orphanage trafficking and related practices of orphanage tourism.

At the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council (8 March 2023), the Government delivered a national statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children to reiterate the Government's commitment to keep all children safe from exploitation.

The Government will continue to engage with the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children; the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children—including through Australia's Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking.

Australia also regularly engages with governments and multilateral partners on issues relating to modern slavery and human trafficking, including through forums such as Alliance 8.7, in which Australia is currently a governing member. Through DFAT, the Government also participates in global forums to share volunteering good practice on issues such as child protection and 'voluntourism'. Through the Australian Volunteers Program, the Government will continue to work with partners to draw on the program's extensive guidance material concerning safe child volunteering practices.

DFAT will also continue to use Smartraveller communications to highlight to travellers the risks associated with volunteering at orphanages and existing messaging that the Government discourages short term unskilled volunteering in orphanages.

The Government does not consider it is necessary to enact a specific offence to criminalise orphanage trafficking. Australia's offences for slavery, slavery-like practices and trafficking in persons in Division 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code* (Cth) capture exploitation or intended exploitation in any industry or setting, including institutional settings such as orphanages. The offences apply to a broad range of criminal actors. All offences in Divisions 270 and 271, other than the domestic trafficking offences, apply to the overseas conduct of Australian citizens, residents and bodies corporate.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends the Australian Government develop legislation addressed at the rights of the victims of child sexual abuse material, including:

- The provision of legal pathways to enable victims (including those in overseas jurisdictions) to seek civil penalties from the perpetrator, including compensation and restitution; and
- Victim access to a perpetrator notification system from law enforcement agencies.

Response:

The Government agrees in part to this recommendation.

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The Australian Government is committed to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in all settings and supporting victims and survivors. Every child and young person has the right to be safe from child sexual abuse, and it is our collective responsibility to protect them.

There are existing legislative and administrative pathways that enable a victim and survivor of child abuse material to seek compensation or reparations or restitution. For example, section 21B of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth) gives a court discretionary power to order an offender to make reparations to any person who suffers loss or expense 'by reason of' the offence as part of the sentencing proceeding.[1] Similar reparations or restitution provisions exist under state and territory legislation. State and territory victims of crime compensation schemes may also be available to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse material offences.

Following the Super for Survivors campaign, the Australian Government has committed to closing a loophole which allows child sexual abuse offenders to deny victims and survivors compensation through shielding assets in the superannuation system. The Government will legislate to allow victims and survivors of child sexual abuse offenders to seek a court order to access personal and voluntary superannuation contributions made by convicted offenders to pay court ordered compensation which remains outstanding for 12 months or more.

The Government will also legislate to allow compensation orders for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to survive an offender's bankruptcy. This will prevent offenders from being able to avoid compensating victims and survivors by becoming bankrupt.

Under measure 10 of the *First Commonwealth Action Plan* of the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030*, the Attorney-General's Department is conducting a scoping study on the availability of civil remedies for victims of Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences. The findings are expected to inform the National Strategy's Second Action Plan.

The Government **notes** the recommendation for 'victim access to a perpetrator notification system from law enforcement agencies'. Further consideration is required of the international evidence base around such notification systems and how such a scheme could apply in the Australian context. This includes ensuring that any future perpetrator notification system would achieve the objective of supporting victims and survivors of child sexual abuse material.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Australian Government continue to use international forums, including bilateral platforms and interparliamentary networks, to emphasise the need to strengthen laws and protections regarding the human rights of women and children in conflict and crisis situations. This should include an emphasis on developing and

[1] *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth), s 21B(1)(b).

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strengthening responses to issues such as sexual and gender-based violence, children in exploitative environments and industries, and modern slavery.

Response:

The Government agrees with this recommendation.

The Australian Government recognises that conflict and crisis situations heighten the risks of modern slavery, especially for women and children who remain disproportionately affected by these crimes. Australia engages with partners in our region and globally to build awareness and help countries to strengthen their responses to these inhumane crimes and their drivers.

Across its multilateral and bilateral engagement, DFAT, along with other Commonwealth departments, will continue to employ every strategy and diplomatic tool at its disposal to uphold global human rights laws and norms, as they relate to the rights of women and children, consistent with Australia's values and interests. The Government will continue to advocate and negotiate in international fora to uphold and strengthen legal and normative commitments to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of women and of children in all contexts, including in conflict and crisis situations. This includes addressing issues of SGBV, exploitation and modern slavery. Australia is supporting the establishment of a global Gender Justice Practitioner Hub which will support practitioners involved in securing gender justice for victims and survivors of international crimes.

The Attorney-General's Department leads Australia's support to the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON), a regional network of senior Pacific law and justice officials. Combatting SGBV by strengthening justice system responses and ensuring access to justice for women and girls is a strategic priority for PILON. The SGBV Working Group has representation from 17 Pacific Island countries and territories. It has developed best practice, including model provisions and explanatory text, for supporting vulnerable witnesses in cases involving SGBV and on the use of victim impact statements. In November 2023, PILON published *Regional Guidelines for Prosecutors and Witnesses Support Officers to support Vulnerable Witnesses through the Prosecution of SGBV Offences*. These Guidelines, which are being rolled out in several countries in the Pacific, aim to expedite SGBV prosecutions, reduce re-traumatisation to vulnerable witnesses, ensure courts hear the best evidence and improve public confidence in reporting SGBV offences.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) ensure that all activities concerning humanitarian, crisis or disaster responses involving DFAT-funded or - supported entities be:

- Assessed upon application on the basis of local engagement with the community, including the requirement of a statement by the applicant on the basis of local engagement, particularly emphasising gender diversity and considerations of the needs of children;
- Monitored at appropriate intervals to determine outcomes and impact; and
- Reported to the Parliament as part of the DFAT annual report.

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Response:

The Government agrees in principle with this recommendation.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting gender-responsive, socially-inclusive and locally led humanitarian action. DFAT's contracts and grant agreements stipulate that all recipients must comply with DFAT policies on gender equality, child protection and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. For DFAT procurements, tenderers must demonstrate how they will deliver on Australian international development priorities, including gender equality, Indigenous participation, disability, social inclusion, and localisation in delivering the services.

Australia is committed to increasing local engagement; and there are existing and sufficient controls in place to not require a new process for a statement on local engagement from partners. *Australia's International Development Performance and Delivery Framework* measures outcomes and impact of humanitarian and crisis response efforts, including through a three-tier indicator framework, annual investment performance processes, annual reporting and independent evaluations.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade allocate a specific portion of Official Development Assistance funding to projects relating to data collection on issues affecting women and children.

Response:

The Government agrees in principle with this recommendation.

DFAT already provides Official Development Assistance funding to projects relating to data collection, as part of broader programming in response to partner requests.

DFAT works with national governments and other development partners to strengthen the disaggregation of data, including by gender, disability and other social inclusion markers and to strengthen the integration of gender analyses within and across development initiatives, including support for disability-disaggregated data and the disaggregation of disability data by sex and gender, to ensure gender-responsive approaches to disability.

Australia provides various regional and country level initiatives that contribute to data for gender equality and related areas, such as the inclusion of people marginalised by disability and social protection. This includes direct support to the SPC, which manages the Pacific Statistical Support Program and oversees implementation of the Pacific Roadmap for Gender Statistics.

Since 2014, the Government has supported partners with the production and utilisation of data to enable national level policy and program development for gender equality. This includes support for UN Women's flagship gender data program Women Count to close data gaps on priority gender equality issues in the Indo-Pacific region, including on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality and the human rights women and girls. Australia also funds UNFPA kNOwVAWdata initiative which supports countries in Asia and the Pacific to undertake international best-practice violence prevalence

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surveys, covering intimate partner and non-partner violence. The Equality Insights program, supported by DFAT since 2014 (including its original development as the Independent Deprivation Measure), is a unique tool for assessing poverty at the individual level, across multiple dimensions. Australian Government support has evolved alongside the development and maturation of the tool, with recent work focused on its application in Tonga and the Solomon Islands.

Australia has also provided funding to UNICEF since 2014 for projects aimed at fostering the availability and quality of data on children with disabilities, at a global level. This partnership resulted in the development of tools, including the Child Functioning Module, the Teacher Version of the Child Functioning Module and the Inclusive Education Module. Technical assistance was provided to over 60 countries on implementing the Child Functioning Module increasing the quantity of quality data on children with disabilities. The information gap on children with disabilities was addressed through analysis and reports like UNICEF's *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities* (2021). Quality data are key to eliminating discrimination against women and children on the basis of disability.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop an International Children's Development Strategy which outlines:

- Australia's commitment to upholding the rights of children internationally;
- Reflect commitments made via international legislation and agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Identify mechanisms and approaches in which it can support neighbours and partners in enhancing their international law obligations and promote the rights of children in local and regional settings; and
- Provide mechanisms in which children can be involved in policy development on matters which affect their interests, lives and rights.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government is committed to work in a range of ways to support the needs of young people in partner countries, including upholding the rights of women and children internationally, and building on existing connections through education, religious and cultural institutions, and youth organisations. This is reflected in existing strategies and policies.

Australia's International Development Policy acknowledges that there are significant demographic shifts occurring across the region, bringing unique challenges and opportunities in different countries, particularly for women, youth and children, such as access to quality education and health services, and creating sufficient and decent jobs.

Australia assumes its responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the rights of children in local and regional settings, including by ensuring robust child protection requirements

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under the international development program, which also includes reference to international conventions and Australian domestic legislation.

Australia's International Development Performance and Delivery Framework includes a specific education indicator for children, tracking the proportion of children and young people achieving at least minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics, with Australian support.

s 47C(1)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 4:23 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: left a comment in "Government Response - template" [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) added a comment

s 33(a)(iii)

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

• strengthe...

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Outlook

s 22(1)(a)(ii) left a comment in "Government Response - template" [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2026 4:32 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: Senate inquiry response - for follow up by Tues
Attachments: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 2026-05-1516-27-27-955.pdf

Hi MYD colleagues,

Thanks again for your ongoing efforts on the senate inquiry respons s 22(1)(a)(ii) came back with minimal changes, so well done!

As discussed, following s 22(1)(a)(ii) feedback – grateful if you could please clarify with Home Affairs the reference to 'onshore' under recommendation 9 (i.e. whether that's accurate or whether it should be offshore).

Aiming to send this on to Dep Sec by **Tuesday**, if possible. Happy to discuss if you run into issues.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 4:14 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: left a comment in "Government Response - template" [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) added a comment

Have sought inputs from HA, with deadline of COB fri 24

...e Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program

Response:

Enter the appropriate response.

DFAT intends to continue the Australia Awards program in Myanmar. It is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to developm...

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: SharePoint Online <no-reply@sharepointonline.com>
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s 33(a)(iii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 3:44 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Senate inquiry report - Government response - review OOB 7 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks for flagging s 22(1)(a)(ii) have shared it with you now

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 3:38 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Senate inquiry report - Government response - review OOB 7 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi would you mind sharing the template with as well?

s 22(1)(a)(ii) fyi recommendation 9 relates in part to the AA scholarships program (and the response looks fine from my layperson's perspective).

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 11:52 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
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Subject: Senate inquiry report - Government response - review OOB 7 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Post colleagues,

Following the release of the senate inquiry report on Myanmar, we have pulled together a response doc based on the PDMS template: Government Response - template.docx. With thanks to MYP/D colleagues, we have a first draft and would be grateful for Post's review of our responses.

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Please note we have consulted the relevant areas internally (including ASO, SHB, PRS, GHD) and externally (Home Affairs for rec 9).

Very grateful for comments or changes in track by **OOB 7 May Canberra time**. Of course, more than happy to discuss.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 1:54 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc:

Subject: RE: Senate inquiry report - Government response - review OOB 7 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Government Response - template HOM.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached with comments from Post cleared through HOM.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Deputy Head of Mission | Australian Embassy, Yangon
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 11:52 AM
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Subject: Senate inquiry report - Government response - review OOB 7 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

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Very grateful for comments or changes in track by **OOB 7 May Canberra time**. Of course, more than happy to discuss.

Many thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

(The month and year should reflect the date of actual tabling)

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Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into: democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with eleven recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts recommendation eleven in principle
- partially accepts recommendations two and seven
- does not accept recommendation ten; and
- notes recommendations one, three, four, five, six, eight and nine.

The Australian Government remains deeply concerned by the situation in Myanmar. Recent regime elections were held amid ongoing violence and repression, and did not meet the conditions for a free, fair and inclusive process. We stand ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering and find a lasting solution to the ongoing crisis. The Australian Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of sustained development and humanitarian assistance.

Page 111 of 243
OFFICIAL

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the 2025-26 elections were held amid ongoing violence and repression, and without meaningful participation from opposition parties. The elections did not meet the conditions for a free, fair and inclusive process.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent statements include:

- on 1 February 2026 [fifth anniversary of the coup], the Foreign Minister issued a statement that recent regime elections were held amid ongoing violence and repression, and without meaningful participation from opposition parties. They did not meet the conditions for free, fair and inclusive elections
- on 10 December 2025 [Human Rights Day], DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations and said the situation in Myanmar fell short of what was needed for free, fair and inclusive elections

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process, which Australia co-chairs with Indonesia, provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Official's Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD).

These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia also supports several large-scale ASEAN initiatives and programs, , including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program [$80 million, 2018-2028], the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime [$30 million, 2020-29] and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program [$83.5 million, 2024-28]. This cooperation is aimed at tackling a range of serious regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and other forms of transnational crime and is complemented by significant and ongoing law enforcement operation activity.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

Locally led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia’s program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through the United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-government organisations. Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women’s groups and organisations for people with disability. While direct funding is not possible or desired by CSOs in many cases, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components for local organisations and/or funding. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

A mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 (DPP) will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia takes all possible steps to avoid conferring legitimacy on Myanmar's authorities. We engage the authorities on a very limited basis and only when it is in our core national interests to do so. Australia does not provide any direct funding to the authorities, and we take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 8

The committee reiterates the recommendations made in the committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of Australia's International Development Policy and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international NGOs, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

DFAT intends to continue the Australia Awards program in Myanmar. It is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency over the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program and ASEAN programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress on the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program. Australia also contributes to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre), supporting ASEAN's leadership in responding to the Myanmar crisis.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans, DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is currently scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our

implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with opposition and democratic groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials do engage with democratic groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities, due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

s 47C(1)

s 47C(1)

s 47C(1)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 5:52 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Hugh Watson; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 24 April [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for consulting SMC.

Please find below SMC's input addressing the highlighted point below.

The committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

///

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office (ASO) conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

///

Warm regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Sanctions Officer | Sanctions Compliance and Monitoring
Australian Sanctions Office | Regulatory Legal Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 11:35 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 24 April [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the chat on the phone just then. As discussed, we have been tasked with responding to the Senate's report on Myanmar, please see the report here for reference: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

I have pulled together a response doc based on the PDMS template: Government Response - template.docx. Very grateful for SMC's inputs to **recommendation 10**, specifically on the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime in Myanmar.

For context, and noting the other subpoints for rec 10, we are leaning towards *not* accepting the recommendation. We have generally been quite circumspect in what we say publicly on sanctions (please see recs 3 – 5, for example).

Grateful for your inputs by **COB Tues 27 April**. Of course, more than happy to discuss.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Outlook

s 22(1)(a)(ii) left a comment in "Government Response - template" [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From
Date Fri 4/24/2026 1:53 PM
To s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

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Government Response - template.docx

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

added a comment

s 33(a)(iii)

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Outlook

s 22(1)(a)(ii) left a comment in "Government Response - template" [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From
Date Tue 5/5/2026 4:26 PM
To s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

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Government Response - template.docx

s 22(1)(a)(ii) added a comment

s 33(a)(iii)

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Outlook

s 22(1)(a)(ii) left a comment in "Government Response - template" [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Date Wed 4/29/2026 2:10 PM
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s 47C(1)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 7 May 2026 1:44 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:

Subject: RE: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 6 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A couple of changes from ARB:

The last para of the response to 6 muddles ASEAN vs regional programs – please change to:

"Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program [$80 million, 2018-2028], the TRIANGLE labour migration program [$24m 2015-25; $15m 2025-30] and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership [$10.5m 2019-25; $11m 2026-31]. Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program."

Issue is similar in third para of 10 and should be changed to "Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar".

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 3:34 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Government response - senate inquiry report - COB 6 May [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hope all's well. We have been tasked with responding to the Senate's report on Myanmar, please see the report here for reference: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

I have pulled together a response doc based on the PDMS template: Government Response - template.docx. Grateful for ARS' review of our draft responses by **COB 6 May** to recommendations **6 and 10**, related to ASEAN programs.

Happy to discuss if any issues.

Many thanks,

_____
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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s 47C(1)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 11:46 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Government response - Senate inquiry - For AS clearance [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 110526 - Government Response - Senate Inquiry.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) tracked changs in the attached.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - would you mind checking my edits on the DPP review?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 11 May 2026 10:28 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Government response - Senate inquiry - For AS clearance [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your verbal feedback last Friday on the government response to the senate inquiry report – please see attached the updated response **for your clearance** as a/g AS SBB, before it goes to Kate S. I have also attached HOM's feedback for your visibility. We (and MYD) have consulted ASO, CSN, ARB, PRS and Home Affairs on this response.

Once it is with Kate, I will work out a time with s 22(1)(a)(ii) for Michelle to clear it (possibly next week). Happy to discuss timelines further.

Many thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

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Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with eleven recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts recommendation eleven in principle
- partially accepts recommendations two and seven
- does not accept recommendation ten; and
- notes recommendations one, three, four, five, six, eight and nine.

The Government remains deeply concerned by the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, and the widespread violence, human rights violations and humanitarian suffering. Reflecting ASEAN's central role, the Government continues to urge the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of sustained development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution.

DRAFT

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained.
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia. The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Official's Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 (DPP) which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review process will take into consideration longer term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGOs). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While direct funding is not possible or desired by civil society organisations in many cases, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components for local organisations and/or funding. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The committee reiterates the recommendations made in the committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans, DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is currently scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 12:15 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Government response - Senate inquiry - For AS clearance [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Those edits look fine to me.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2026 2:15 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Kate Smith
Subject: RE: Government Response - Senate Inquiry on Myanmar - For Dep Sec review [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 2026-05-2514-08-26-153.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Many thanks, Michelle has cleared with edits in the attached (please reach out if anything is not clear).

Further, Michelle has advised there is no requirement for the Secretary to review, so happy for it to progress once updated as per the attached.

Kind regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer to Michelle Chan, Deputy Secretary
South and Southeast Asia Group (SSG) | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 4:03 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Kate Smith <Kate.Smith7@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Government Response - Senate Inquiry on Myanmar - For Dep Sec review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached our draft Government Response to the recent senate inquiry into the state of democracy and human rights in Myanmar. We have consulted sanctions (SAN, SMC), counter-people

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smuggling (CSN), ASEAN (ARS), humanitarian (PRS), Myanmar Development (MYD), Post Yangon and Home Affairs (for recommendation 9). Grateful for Dep Sec Chan's approval of this response.

For further context:

- DFAT presented a submission to the inquiry on 30 January and appeared at a public hearing on 13 February
- DFAT responded to 29 written and spoken QoNs
- The Committee's report was released on 31 March, with **eleven** recommendations – this response addresses those recommendations
- The Response is due by 10 June in PDMS to FMO – but we hope to share an early draft with them
- The Response is then due to be tabled by 26 June, following approval from the relevant ministers and PM (we are currently drafting a MinSub and letters – Parliamentary has advised these can be cleared at AS level)

Deputy Secretary approval is **required** for the Government Response, with the option for the Secretary to approve. Grateful if you could please advise whether Dep Sec Chan would prefer the Secretary to review the Response too. I can then liaise with the Secretary's Office to manage timelines.

Happy to provide any further detail, if useful.

Kind regards,

_____

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
dfat.gov.au | X | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn



© Brooke Rigney-Lively (2024)
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

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Introduction

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The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with ~~eleven~~ recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

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- does not accept ~~recommendation ten~~; and
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Recent examples of our regular statements include:

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Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

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Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

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of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions ~~towards~~ on Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

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- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
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Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

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The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Official's Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

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Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 (DPP) which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review

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process will take into consideration longer-term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally-led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGO). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While in many cases direct funding is not possible to, or desired by civil society organisations, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components for local organisations and/or funding. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in the Committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally-led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

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The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

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The Committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

This focus sits alongside Australia's ongoing offshore humanitarian resettlement efforts, where Myanmar nationals continue to feature prominently. From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

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The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

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Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans (DPP), DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is ~~currently~~ scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 3:56 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report - Due COB 24 April

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your initial feedback on this. As discussed, please see updated responses here: Government Response - template.docx. Still waiting on CSN's inputs to rec 6 (expecting it by midday tomorrow).

I intend to share this with Post by early afternoon tomorrow. I will also run a couple of relevant sections past ASO and ARB.

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 5:20 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Government Response - Senate Inquiry report - Due COB 24 April

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

With thanks to the team for their contributions, please see an early draft of our responses to the senate inquiry report: Government Response - template.docx

Grateful for your review of recommendations 1 – 6 and 10 – 11. Recommendations 7 – 9 will be cleared by s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I have consulted SAN (sanctions) on recommendations 3 – 5, which I am happy to discuss further. I am just waiting for the sanctions compliance section (SMC) to provide some points in response to recommendation 10. I will follow them up tomorrow.

Points have largely been drawn from statements and the backpocket brief. s 47C(1)

As discussed, aiming to send this to Post later tomorrow but there may be some leeway in the timeline. Assuming Kate S is acting FAS for the rest of May.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 26 June 2026 11:17 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Draft letter - MID (002).docx; MS26-000630 - draft minsub.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Thanks for progressing so quickly. Minor comments only.

Lets get to today to see if he can clear – s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 5:10 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful for your review of the attached draft minsub and letter, noting MYD has reviewed. Happy to discuss.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 1:09 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Hi PLE – please register for minreply.

SBB colleagues – grateful a reply under cover of a minsub, recommending Minister Aly agree to the Government Response and sign the reply to Minister Wong, and include relevant background on the FADT inquiry and report. Please draw out our development/humanitarian assistance in the Minister's reply.

Thanks and happy to discuss.

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 12:27 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached a letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Aly regarding the Australian Government response to the *Democracy and human rights* in Myanmar report.

No hard copy to follow.

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

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The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

MS26-000630

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
senator.wong@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter regarding the Government Response to the Report of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee, '*Democracy and human rights in Myanmar*'. I agree to the final Government Response as provided.

For the 2025-26 financial year, Australia is providing an estimated $124.8 million in Official Development Assistance for the people of Myanmar. This supports critical needs including healthcare, education, food security, protection, livelihoods and programs that support gender equality and address gender-based violence. In line with the Government Response, it is important we continue to account for the sensitivities associated with delivering assistance to Myanmar, for the safety and security of our local implementing partners and intended beneficiaries.

I appreciate your engagement on this matter.

Yours sincerely

THE HON DR ANNE ALY MP

s 47C(1)

s 47C(1)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 2:34 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Government response - Senate inquiry - For AS clearance [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Many thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

For awareness, this is now with Kate S in hard copy to clear.

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 5:52 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

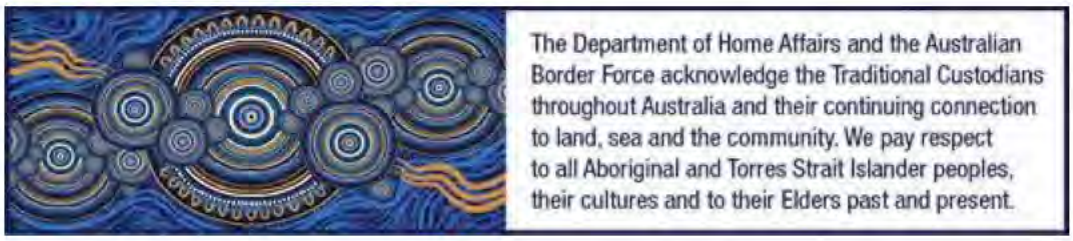
Hi all

Thank you for consulting us.

OSC has reviewed and has nil input. We do not engage with diaspora communities and therefore cannot comment on engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups.

Kind regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer to Mark Groote
First Assistant Secretary | Office for Social Cohesion
Department of Home Affairs
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



OFFICIAL

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OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 4:52 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) , appreciate your responses and noted on the need to consult with the Minister Burke's Office.

We await review and response from your s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Director
Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 4:46 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Sorry I missed you s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I had not had visibility of recommendation 11, but I note that my Office for Multicultural Affairs colleagues have shared with our Office for Social Cohesion for review.

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I also note we have received correspondence to Minister Burke seeking agreement to table, and are drafting a response. While we support recommendation 9 response at the Departmental level, just cautioning we will discuss with our MO as we progress the return corro for signature. I don't expect there will be concerns from the office, but will reach out if there are any questions etc.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Secretary Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Branch
Migration, Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Division
Department of Home Affairs
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 4:39 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OMA has reviewed and have NIL input.

We believe Recommendation 11 should be reviewed by OSC.

I have added them in this email for action.

Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer to Sneha Chatterjee
First Assistant Secretary

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Office for Multicultural Affairs
Immigration Group | Department of Home Affairs
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government

OFFICE FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 4:27 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii)
(s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further to my email below, we've also finalised the draft letter for Minister Aly's signature.

We're proposing to include the following language regarding recommendation 9 and 11: *With reference to our response to recommendation nine, we continue to value the Australia Awards program in Myanmar as part of our development program. On recommendation eleven, we acknowledge the importance of engaging with a rich and diverse range of voices, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. Public formalised engagement nevertheless carries sensitivities due to risks posed to members and their families in Myanmar.*

Please do let us know if you have any concerns with this language.

We look forward to hearing from you on this and the draft Government Response. Per my email below, we are seeking your **advice by COB today**.

I did try to reach s 22(1)(a)(ii) by phone and remain available to chat if you have any questions. The best number to reach me on is my mobile (below).

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 1:34 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar
Importance: High

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT has coordinated the draft Government Response (attached) to the Senate Inquiry into *Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar.* The Government's response is due for tabling during this week's parliamentary sitting.

The Foreign Minister has written to the Minister for International Development and Minister for Home Affairs seeking their agreement to the response ahead of tabling. I understand our respective Ministers' offices have been in discussions, and your DLO has alerted the Home Affairs to the priority of a response.

Minister Aly's office has requested we follow up with you to confirm Home Affairs is comfortable with the response to recommendations 9 and 11.

With apologies for the short turn around, we'd be grateful **Home Affairs advice by COB today**. We'd also encourage a response by your Minister as soon as possible to facilitate tabling this week.

To assist, I'm copying in s 22(1)(a)(ii) from the Citizenship and Humanitarian Policy Branch as he assisted us with drafting the response to recommendation 9.

Happy to discuss or provide further information if helpful.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

OFFICIAL

Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government remains deeply concerned by the ongoing crisis in Myanmar. Since 1 February 2021, the people of Myanmar have endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering.

This crisis, caused by the coup, continues unabated. In 2026, an estimated 16.2 million people will require lifesaving humanitarian assistance, and over 3.7 million people are internally displaced due to ongoing conflict. The economy has contracted significantly, and transnational and serious organised crime has flourished, threatening regional stability.

Australia has consistently condemned the regime's brutal and ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and we will continue to judge the Myanmar military by its actions. We continue to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the situation in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution to the ongoing crisis. We stand with the people of Myanmar, and share their ambitions for a better future.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with 11 recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts Recommendation 11 in principle
- partially accepts Recommendations 2 and 7
- does not accept Recommendation 10; and
- notes Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the UN Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions on Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m, 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m, 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review process

will take into consideration longer-term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally-led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's development assistance program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGO). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While in many cases direct funding is not possible to, or desired by, civil society organisations, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components and/or funding for local organisations. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in the Committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally-led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

This focus sits alongside Australia's ongoing offshore humanitarian resettlement efforts, where Myanmar nationals continue to feature prominently. From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans (DPP), DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 10:00 AM
To: Kate Smith; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: MS26-000462 - FM signed.pdf; MS26-000462 - letter to Minister Burke - FM signed.pdf; MS26-000462 - letter to Minister Aly - FM signed.pdf; MS26-000462 - letter to the Prime Minister - FM signed - undated.pdf; MS26-000462 - letter to Chair of FADT - FM signed - undated.pdf; MS26-000462 - letter to President of the Senate - FM signed - undated.pdf; Attachment A - Government Response - FMO edited_2.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Dear Kate, s 22(1)(a)(ii) (PLE for visibility)

Please see attached FM-signed min sub **MS26-000462**: *Australian Government response to the FADT report into Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar.*

FM annotated '*please finalise with FMO*' in relation to Recommendation A. FMO-edited response is saved in PDMS and attached here (word document).

Grateful if you could please review the edited government response and revert with a clean copy. We will then dispatch to Minister Burke and Minister Aly.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministerial Submission

MS26-000462
Cleared by: Kate Smith
Date sent to MO: 4 June 2026
Action Requested By: 23 June 2026
Reason for Urgency: Tabling due 23 June

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Australian Government response to the FADT report into Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar

Key Issues: The Government is due to respond to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee's March 2026 report '*Democracy and human rights in Myanmar*' by 23 June. The report recommended Australia continue its advocacy, introduce additional sanctions, enhance development and humanitarian assistance, increase resettlement opportunities and formalise diaspora engagement. Taking account of risks and sensitivities related to Australia's Myanmar policy settings, we propose to accept or partially accept 3 recommendations, note 7 recommendations, and not accept 1 recommendation.
The Final Government Response was prepared in consultation with Department of Home Affairs and cleared by Deputy Secretary, South and Southeast Asia Group.

Recommendation: That you:	**Decision:**
a) **Agree** to the Government Response (**Attachment A**) to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee's March 2026 report.	**Agreed / Not Agreed**
b) **Sign** the letter to the Minister for International Development (**Attachment B**) and Minister for Home Affairs (**Attachment C**) requesting their agreement to tabling of the response.	**Signed / Not Signed**
c) **Sign** the letter to the Prime Minister (**Attachment D**), requesting approval to table the Government Response.	**Signed / Not Signed**
d) Pending agreement of the Prime Minister, **sign** the letter to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (**Attachment E**) providing an advance copy, and the letter to the President of the Senate (**Attachment F**) presenting the Government Response for tabling.	**Signed / Not Signed**

Domestic/Media Considerations: The Government Response may generate media interest.

Action:

Penny Wong
24/6/26

Ms finalise & Fwd
Thx
24/6

From: Kate Smith, A/g FAS SRD
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Myanmar Political Section
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable
If the proposal high risk/high value (over $100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable

Consultation: DFAT: OSA, HPD, ISD, MPD, Post Yangon; Other Government Agencies: Home Affairs

Use of AI: N/A

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Background:

In November 2025, the Senate referred an inquiry into the state of democracy and human rights in Myanmar to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (the Committee).

2. DFAT provided a submission to the inquiry in January 2025. DFAT appeared before the Committee at a public hearing on 13 February 2026 and subsequently answered 29 questions on notice. DFAT also provided a private briefing to the Committee's Deputy Chair, Senator the Hon Dean Smith, on Australia's sanctions framework.

3. The Committee received a total of 37 submissions from the National Unity Government of Myanmar, academics, civil society organisations and individuals. No submissions were provided by other government departments.

4. The Committee published its report in March 2026 with 11 recommendations to the Australian Government to continue its advocacy and support for the people of Myanmar through further sanctions, enhanced development and humanitarian assistance, increased resettlement opportunities and formalised diaspora engagement.

s 33(a)(iii)

6. The proposed Government response needs to be approved by:

- you (Minister Wong);
- the Minister for International Development (draft letter at **Attachment B**);
- the Minister for Home Affairs (draft letter at **Attachment C**); and
- the Prime Minister (draft letter at **Attachment D**).

7. Once agreed, an advance copy of the Government's response is to be provided to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee with a signed covering letter (**Attachment E**). If the response needs to be presented on a non-sitting day, a signed letter of transmittal needs to be set by you (Minister Wong) to the President of the Senate with the proposed response (**Attachment F**).

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Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MS26-0000462

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I seek your agreement to the enclosed Government Response to the Report of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee *'Democracy and human rights in Myanmar'*. The Committee report, published in March 2026, includes 11 recommendations.

The Final Government Response is attached for your agreement. It was prepared in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs.

I have also written to the Minister for International Development. Following ministerial agreement, I will seek the Prime Minister's approval of the Government Response.

Yours sincerely

PENNY WONG

Encl. Government response to the report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.*

24 JUN 2026

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MS26 0000462

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for International Development
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I seek your agreement to the enclosed Government Response to the Report of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee *'Democracy and human rights in Myanmar'*. The Committee report, published in March 2026, includes eleven recommendations.

The Final Government Response is attached for your agreement. It was prepared in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs.

I have also written to the Minister for Home Affairs. Following ministerial agreement, I will seek the Prime Minister's approval of the Government Response.

Yours sincerely

PENNY WONG

Encl. Government response to the report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar*.

24 JUN 2026

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MS26-0000462

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I seek your approval to submit to Parliament the enclosed Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report, *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar,* published in March 2026.

The Committee has made recommendations to continue our advocacy and support for the people of Myanmar through sanctions, development and humanitarian assistance, resettlement opportunities and diaspora engagement. The proposed response notes the majority of the recommendations, due to sensitivities inherent to our Myanmar policy settings. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade coordinated the drafting of the response and consulted the Department of Home Affairs.

The Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for International Development have approved the Government Response.

Yours sincerely

PENNY WONG

Encl. Government response to the report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.*

cc.
The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs
The Hon Dr Anne Aly, Minister for International Development

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MS25-0000462

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Standing Order 166, relating to the presentation of documents when the Senate is not sitting, I present to you the Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.*

I thank the Committee for its work.

Yours sincerely

PENNY WONG

Encl. Government response to the report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.*

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MS26-0000462

Senator Jessica Collins
Chair
Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I would like to thank the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (FADT) for its report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar*. The Government appreciates the opportunity to respond to the FADT's recommendations.

It is my pleasure to provide an advance copy of the Government's response to the report.

Please note this response is under embargo until it is tabled.

I thank the Committee for its work.

Yours sincerely

PENNY WONG

Encl. Government response to the report *Democracy and human rights in Myanmar*.

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

OFFICIAL

Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government remains deeply concerned by the ongoing crisis in Myanmar. Since 1 February 2021, the people of Myanmar have endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering.

This crisis, caused by the coup, continues unabated. In 2026, an estimated 16.2 million people will require lifesaving humanitarian assistance, and over 3.6 million people are internally displaced due to ongoing conflict. The economy has contracted significantly, and transnational and serious organised crime has flourished, threatening regional stability.

Australia has consistently condemned the regime's brutal and ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and we will continue to judge the Myanmar military by its actions. We continue to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the situation in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution to the ongoing crisis. We stand with the people of Myanmar, and share their ambitions for a better future.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with 11 recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts Recommendation 11 in principle
- partially accepts Recommendations 2 and 7
- does not accept Recommendation 10; and
- notes Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the UN Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions on Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m, 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m, 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review process

will take into consideration longer-term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally-led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's development assistance program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGO). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While in many cases direct funding is not possible to, or desired by, civil society organisations, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components and/or funding for local organisations. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in the Committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally-led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

This focus sits alongside Australia's ongoing offshore humanitarian resettlement efforts, where Myanmar nationals continue to feature prominently. From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans (DPP), DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 10:43 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Sam Beever; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Kate Smith; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Attachment A - Government Response - MYP - 250626.docx

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for sharing the signed MinSub and FMO-edited response. As requested, please see attached a clean copy of the response, noting we have changed the IDP figure to 3.7 million in line with the latest data. Happy to discuss.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

dfat.gov.au | X | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government remains deeply concerned by the ongoing crisis in Myanmar. Since 1 February 2021, the people of Myanmar have endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering.

This crisis, caused by the coup, continues unabated. In 2026, an estimated 16.2 million people will require lifesaving humanitarian assistance, and over 3.7 million people are internally displaced due to ongoing conflict. The economy has contracted significantly, and transnational and serious organised crime has flourished, threatening regional stability.

Australia has consistently condemned the regime's brutal and ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and we will continue to judge the Myanmar military by its actions. We continue to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the situation in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution to the ongoing crisis. We stand with the people of Myanmar, and share their ambitions for a better future.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with 11 recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts Recommendation 11 in principle
- partially accepts Recommendations 2 and 7
- does not accept Recommendation 10; and
- notes Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the UN Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions on Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m, 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m, 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review process

will take into consideration longer-term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally-led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's development assistance program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGO). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While in many cases direct funding is not possible to, or desired by, civil society organisations, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components and/or funding for local organisations. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in the Committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally-led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

This focus sits alongside Australia's ongoing offshore humanitarian resettlement efforts, where Myanmar nationals continue to feature prominently. From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans (DPP), DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2026 1:20 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Sam Beever; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Kate Smith; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: MS26-000630 Letter from MID to FM - Government Response to FADT Committee Myanmar Report (2 July).pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi all

Please see attached Minister Aly's response. I've attached this to **MS26-000462**.

Thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 12:27 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; Kate Smith <Kate.Smith7@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks all – confirming the letters and response have been sent to Minister Burke and Minister Aly's offices.

Thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 12:26 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Kate Smith <Kate.Smith7@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) hat's fine with us.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Adviser to Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Labor Senator for South Australia
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

OFFICIAL
DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

MS26-000630

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
senator.wong@aph.gov.au

02 JUL 2026

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter regarding the Government Response to the Report of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee, '*Democracy and human rights in Myanmar*'.

I agree with the draft Government Response as it relates to my portfolio responsibilities. This includes the proposed responses to recommendations 7 through to 11.

Australia is committed to supporting the people of Myanmar. Between 2017 and 2025, Australia provided $352 million in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Myanmar. In 2026, we have commenced a new $370 million three-year program to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and continue support for more than one million Rohingya refugees and their host communities in Bangladesh.

The operating environment in Myanmar remains high-risk and complex. It is important we continue to account for the sensitivities associated with program delivery in Myanmar, including the safety of our local implementing partners and intended beneficiaries.

I acknowledge the importance of engaging with a range of stakeholders on Myanmar, including the diaspora. I note that public formalised engagement nevertheless carries sensitivities due to risks posed to the diaspora community and their families in Myanmar.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

THE HON DR ANNE ALY MP

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2026 3:22 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sam Beever
Subject: RE: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Attachment A - Government Response - latest version.docx

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Many thanks for passing on Minister's Burke's response to FM Wong regarding the Government Response. As requested, please see **attached** the draft Government Response.

As the response was drafted in June, we draw the following to the FMO's attention:

- The IDP figure in the introduction (3.7 million) is now out of date. The figure has now risen to 4 million IDPs in Myanmar.
- Australia recently joined a joint statement (25 August) marking the ninth anniversary of attacks on Rohingyas. This could be included as an additional example of recent statements in the response to recommendation 2.

Grateful for FMO's advice on including these two possible updates — we would be happy to update the response as appropriate.

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2026 11:29 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi olleagues

Minister Burke has responded to the FM regarding the Myanmar government response (see letter attached – I've also attached to **MS26-000462**).

We are now ready to dispatch the letter to the PM – could you please re-send us the correct version of the draft government response? We'll dispatch to PMO.

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2026 5:32 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Appreciate the update. Thanks for liaising with Burke's Office.

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:22 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sorry for the delayed response.

I checked in with Minister Burke's office, who advised they were still working on the response to the FM. I didn't get an ETA unfortunately but expressed our keenness to keep the process moving.

Thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:21 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: MS26-000462 - FM signed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for providing us with a copy of Minister Aly's response. Do we have any response from Minister Burke's office? Please let us know if there is anything else you need from us to keep this matter moving along. We've offered assistance to our HA's counterparts but have not heard back.

Best,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
A/g Director | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

Introduction

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This crisis, caused by the coup, continues unabated. In 2026, an estimated 16.2 million people will require lifesaving humanitarian assistance, and over 3.7 million people are internally displaced due to ongoing conflict. The economy has contracted significantly, and transnational and serious organised crime has flourished, threatening regional stability.

Australia has consistently condemned the regime's brutal and ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and we will continue to judge the Myanmar military by its actions. We continue to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the situation in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution to the ongoing crisis. We stand with the people of Myanmar, and share their ambitions for a better future.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with 11 recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts Recommendation 11 in principle
- partially accepts Recommendations 2 and 7
- does not accept Recommendation 10; and
- notes Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the UN Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

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Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions on Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m, 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m, 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review process

will take into consideration longer-term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally-led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's development assistance program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGO). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While in many cases direct funding is not possible to, or desired by, civil society organisations, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components and/or funding for local organisations. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in the Committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally-led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program.

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

This focus sits alongside Australia's ongoing offshore humanitarian resettlement efforts, where Myanmar nationals continue to feature prominently. From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans (DPP), DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: 2026 2:56 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Sam Beever; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MIDO has also asked that Minister Aly's reply to Minister Wong include reference to recs 9 and 11 as well. Would you please seek input from Home Affairs colleagues accordingly – a few lines will suffice.

I won't assign the record back to you in PDMS for editing. Just email the updated letter to me and I'll swap it with the current draft in PDMS – thanks!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 1:11 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As discussed, MIDO would be grateful for confirmation from Home Affairs that it is comfortable with recs 9 and 11 as they relate to Minister Aly's portfolio responsibilities.

Please reach out s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au (cc'ing s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au), seeking a response by COB today. The Home Affairs DLO in Minister Aly's office has given Home Affairs a heads up. Given Home Affairs was consulted during the drafting of the report, I expect the recommendations in the final report reflect their views.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 12:20 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) nd noted on timing – I'll ensure MIDO is aware.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 12:00 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for advising – we are progressing the draft minsub and letter. Very grateful for sign-off as soon as possible, noting that we are aiming to table the response next week while a sitting week is on (and assuming we receive Prime Ministerial approval in time). I will reflect this in the 'action requested section' of the minsub too. Happy to discuss if any issues.

Many thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii) _____

Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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© Brooke Rigney-Lively (2024)
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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OFFICIAL

From s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: 26 1:09 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi lease register for minreply.

SBB colleagues – grateful a reply under cover of a minsub, recommending Minister Aly agree to the Government Response and sign the reply to Minister Wong, and include relevant background on the FADT inquiry and report. Please draw out our development/humanitarian assistance in the Minister's reply.

Thanks and happy to discuss.

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 12:27 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached a letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Aly regarding the Australian Government response to the *Democracy and human rights* in Myanmar report.

No hard copy to follow.

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer | Foreign Minister's Office
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 9:28 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) for coordinating this so quickly. I'll provide HA's clearance to MIDO and upload to PDMS for our records.

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 9:17 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE BY COB: Australian Government Response - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) with thanks for your quick response. We appreciate everyone's quick review.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____
Director
Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

DFAT – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - LEX 14275

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 9:33 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Sam Beever; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) for the quick work on this, including on consulting with HA colleagues.

I'll upload the updated letter and share HA's clearance with MIDO.

Best
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 9:29 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sam Beever <Samuel.Beever@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from the Foreign Minister to Minister Burke - Australian Government response - Democracy and human rights in Myanmar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for advising – please see **attached** the updated letter, as requested. We have included an extra paragraph referencing recommendations nine and eleven, and consulted with Home Affairs (with nil input from them).

Please reach out if you need anything else.

Many thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Policy Officer | Myanmar Political Section
Southeast Asia Mainland Branch | Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (duplicate)

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Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report:

Democracy and human rights in Myanmar

JUNE 2026

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Introduction

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee ('the Committee') on its inquiry into: Democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The Government recognises and appreciates the work of the Committee. The report is comprehensive and detailed, with eleven recommendations.

The Government has carefully considered the report and:

- accepts recommendation eleven in principle
- partially accepts recommendations two and seven
- does not accept recommendation ten; and
- notes recommendations one, three, four, five, six, eight and nine.

The Government remains deeply concerned by the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, and the widespread violence, human rights violations and humanitarian suffering. Reflecting ASEAN's central role, the Government continues to urge the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. The Government remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through the provision of sustained development and humanitarian assistance, and stands ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a lasting resolution.

DRAFT

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Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- maintain its clear and principled objection to the continuing military rule of Myanmar and its rejection of the 2025–26 elections and attempts to use the 'sham' elections to build a cloak of respectability for the military regime; and
- actively object to any attempts to legitimise the military regime, normalise military rule and the acceptance of Myanmar into diplomatic, parliamentary and regional or multilateral forums.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2026, the fifth anniversary of the coup, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that the crisis in Myanmar continued unabated and that the people of Myanmar had endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. The statement also noted that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

The Government has consistently maintained that a genuine path to peace requires an end to violence, the release of all those unjustly detained and inclusive dialogue between all Myanmar stakeholders. Australia condemns ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar and will continue to judge the Myanmar authorities by their actions. Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests. Australia continues to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the crisis in Myanmar and urge for its full implementation.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- more regularly state its ongoing concern about the conflict in Myanmar and continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime;
- recognise that continued conflict in Myanmar is now entering a new and more complex phase as it evolves from not just a humanitarian challenge to a strategic one, recognising the challenge now intersects with regional security, migration pressures and transnational crime networks; and
- maintain its policy of avoiding direct engagement with the military regime.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

Australia regularly raises its concerns about the conflict in Myanmar, in public statements and in bilateral and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. We will continue to draw attention to the sustained repression, violence and human rights abuses.

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Recent examples of our regular statements include:

- on 6 May and 22 April 2026, DFAT issued statements via social media calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the release of all prisoners who remain unjustly detained
- on 1 February 2026 – the fifth anniversary of the coup – the Foreign Minister issued a statement reiterating Australia's concerns about the crisis, condemning the atrocities against the people of Myanmar, and reaffirming our expectations and pathway for its peaceful resolution
- on 10 December 2025 – Human Rights Day – DFAT issued a statement which condemned the Myanmar military regime's widespread human rights abuses and violations.

Australia recognises the interlinkages of conflict in Myanmar with regional security, migration pressures, and transnational crime networks. Consistent with the Foreign Minister's statement on 1 February 2026, the Government acknowledges that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished as a result of the crisis, threatening regional stability.

Australia's diplomatic engagement is calibrated to that which is necessary to pursue our national interests.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Government work towards aligning its Myanmar-related sanctions with key allies such as the United States of America.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government engages regularly with likeminded partners on sanctions, including the United States of America, however precise listing criteria and requirements vary between countries. Decisions to impose sanctions are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Australian Government impose sanctions against Myanmar's Central Bank and other banks controlled by the military regime in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Australian Government has imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and 7 entities under the Myanmar sanctions framework. These are contained in the publicly available Consolidated List, which is kept and maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed autonomous sanctions on those directly responsible for the military coup and ongoing repression and violence in Myanmar, targeting 16 members

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of the previous State Administration Council and two Myanmar military-controlled entities: Myanmar Economic Public Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed further targeted sanctions, including on two regime-controlled banks that enable the purchase of arms and materiel: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential future sanctions measures.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Australian Government seek to disrupt and sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Myanmar junta and government.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

On 1 February 2024, the Government imposed targeted sanctions on five entities to limit the regime's access to funds for arms and military matériel, including jet fuel. This includes three Myanmar-based companies providing jet fuel to the Myanmar military: Asia Sun Group, Asia Sun Trading Co Ltd and Cargo Link Petroleum Co Ltd.

Australia keeps its sanctions towards Myanmar under regular review. We weigh a range of considerations when deciding to impose sanctions; they are one tool at our disposal. The Government does not speculate on potential sanction measures.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government supplement its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by:

- strengthening engagement through other regional mechanisms such as The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
- exploring new additional Myanmar-specific regional initiatives with countries such as India.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is working with international partners to respond to human trafficking, people smuggling, and other transnational crime threats arising from the Myanmar crisis, including online scam operations, drug trafficking, and illicit financing.

As referenced by the Committee, the Bali Process provides a vital regional platform to build capacity, conduct research into emerging trends and coordinate responses across borders (including law enforcement agencies' approaches to detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution) to combat these crime types. Australia co-chairs the Bali Process with Indonesia.

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The Bali Process' 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation identifies priority areas for cooperation, including addressing the proliferation of online scams operations.

Australia also actively engages through ASEAN transnational crime mechanisms. For example, Australia is an important dialogue partner for the Senior Official's Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). These forums are focused on combatting key regional challenges, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime (including cyber scam centres).

Australia supports several ASEAN-focussed initiatives, including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program ($80 million, 2018-2028), the TRIANGLE labour migration program ($15m 2025-30) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership ($11m 2026-31). Complementing this, Australia also supports broader regional initiatives, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends the Australian Government:

- prioritise the finalisation and publication of initiatives contained in the announcement of the $370 million over three years to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, including establishing a Civil Society Pooled Fund;
- bring forward of the proposed mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 to reflect the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs arising in Myanmar and border communities in Thailand, India and Bangladesh;
- prioritise the development of the publication of clear operational principles to guide non-avoidable engagement between development partners and entities associated with the military regime;
- demonstrate how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework is working to facilitate greater access, flexibility and use of locally led organisations in the delivery of Australia's humanitarian program in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government partially accepts this recommendation.

DFAT is in the process of finalising a range of agreements under the new $370 million humanitarian package for the people of Myanmar, including displaced Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh. Noting the sensitivities and security situation, the Government does not publicise the details of our initiatives in Myanmar or our local implementing partners for their safety. This is at their request.

The Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan and our development programs are subject to ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure they are appropriate and responsive to immediate changes and shifts in the Myanmar development context. This process is complemented by a mid-cycle review of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029 (DPP) which will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year. The review

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process will take into consideration longer term contextual shifts to ensure that our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant.

Australia's development and humanitarian partners have rigorous processes in place to ensure that funding is delivered appropriately and to intended beneficiaries. This is a fundamental condition of Australia's engagement with them. We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance to Myanmar neither goes to the authorities nor lends them credibility. Noting the sensitivities and security situation in Myanmar, it would not be appropriate to publicise operational details of these processes.

DFAT's due diligence framework establishes important minimum requirements for any implementing partner delivering development cooperation or humanitarian assistance. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Locally led assistance, including work with civil society organisations, remains at the heart of Australia's program in Myanmar. Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivered through United Nations partners, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international non-government organisations (INGOs). Our implementing partners in Myanmar provide support to many local organisations – in some sectors they are the only entities that can deliver programming, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. We prioritise programs that give funding to local downstream partners and support funding for local organisations, including women's groups and organisations for people with disability. While direct funding is not possible or desired by civil society organisations ~~in many cases~~, most of our programs provide subgrants which include capacity development components for local organisations and/or funding. We will continue to track our support to local organisations through our United Nations and INGO partners, including via funding to subgrantees, depending on local sensitivities.

Recommendation 8

The committee reiterates the recommendations made in the committee's report into the Efficacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade due diligence framework. In particular, recommendation 1 of that report which urges greater flexibility in Australia's delivery of aid, recognising that locally led organisations can often better deliver aid in conflict situations.

Response:

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government recognises the key role that locally led organisations can play in delivering humanitarian and development assistance. Strengthening localisation is a key commitment of *Australia's International Development Policy* and this is built into the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029. While Australia's direct funding partners in Myanmar are mostly multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations, they partner with local organisations to deliver assistance.

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The Government considers the existing due diligence framework used by DFAT to be fit-for-purpose. This framework is one element of the Government's risk management approach to the delivery of official development assistance in the high-risk context of Myanmar.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends the Australian Government increase resettlement opportunities and alternative visas for education, research and employment opportunities for Myanmar asylum seekers and refugees and expand the Myanmar Australia Awards program

Response:

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

In recognition of the grave humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, the Australian Government has designated Myanmar nationals in Australia as a priority caseload in our onshore humanitarian visa program.

From 2019-20 to 2024-25, Myanmar has consistently been in:

- the top five countries of origin for offshore humanitarian visas granted;
- the top ten countries of origin for vulnerable women and children granted offshore humanitarian visas; and
- the top five countries of origin for the Community Support Program (CSP) and its predecessor, the Community Proposal Pilot (CPP).

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,364 permanent offshore humanitarian visas were granted to Myanmar citizens, making up almost 10% of offshore humanitarian grants in the 2025-26 program year.

The Australia Awards program in Myanmar is a valued component of our development program, supporting emerging and future leaders to develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to development in Myanmar while maintaining strong links to Australia.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Australian Government provide a quarterly statement to Parliament on its response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar and include:

- progress on the implementation of the Australia-Myanmar Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029;
- progress of initiatives undertaken with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- the monitoring and compliance of Australia's sanctions regime; and
- engagement with the Myanmar diaspora and National Unity Government.

Response:

The Government does not accept this recommendation.

There are a range of existing mechanisms and avenues in place to provide transparency of the Government's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Progress of all DFAT initiatives, including our bilateral development program, ASEAN and other regional programs on and related to Myanmar, are aggregated and reported on through

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the DFAT Annual Report, Annual Performance of Australia Development Cooperation Report and DFAT's Online AusDev Portal. This includes progress of regional initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime and the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program.

As is the case for all Development Partnership Plans, DFAT undertakes an internal performance assessment process of DPP implementation each year. A mid-cycle review of the DPP is currently scheduled for 2026-27. The review process will take into consideration key shifts in the Myanmar development context since 2024 to ensure our development and humanitarian priorities for Myanmar remain relevant. To ensure the safety and security of our implementing partners, we do not share information about our programs, implementing partners or implementation progress.

As Australia's sanctions regulator, the Australian Sanctions Office conducts robust, independent evaluations of potential non-compliance and takes appropriate corrective action where a risk of a contravention is found. It is the longstanding practice of successive Australian governments not to comment on sanctions compliance matters.

Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including National Unity Government representatives. The Government also engages with diaspora at both organisational and individual levels. We refrain from publicising this engagement due to the risks posed to these groups, the diaspora and their families still in Myanmar.

Recommendation 11

The committee recommends the Australian Government formalise its engagement with Myanmar diaspora groups to access the extensive first-hand knowledge, experience and networks these groups can bring to sustaining Australia's response to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation in principle.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement with a broad range of views and perspectives. Australian officials engage with a diversity of voices and groups as opportunities arise, including members of the Myanmar diaspora. However, public formalised engagement with diaspora carries sensitivities due to the risks posed to them and their families still in Myanmar. Australia stands with the people of Myanmar and we will continue to engage with groups and voices working for democracy.