

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**

Budget Estimates 2014, 4-5 June 2014

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING**

**Question No 77**

**Program: DFAT**

**Topic: Middle East - Palestinian children in custody**

**Question on Notice**

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**Senator Xenophon**

**Question**

**Senator XENOPHON:** *Could you please take this on notice: in respect of Palestinian children in custody, have any representations—and, if so, what was the nature of those representations—been made to the Israeli government?*

**Mr Varghese:** *I am happy to take that on notice.*

**Answer**

In February, the Australian Embassy in Israel made formal representations to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice expressing Australia's concerns about Israel's security and judicial practices toward Palestinian minors. This followed the Embassy's last round of formal representations on this issue in March 2013. The Department also raised Australia's concerns about this issue with the Israeli Embassy in Canberra in February.