

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Budget Estimates 2014, 4-5 June 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 74

Program: DFAT

Topic: Middle East - Palestinian Territories

Question on Notice

Page: 117

Senator Xenophon

Question

Senator XENOPHON: *Does Mr Varghese have a view on whether the territories are occupied or not?*

CHAIR: *I am not sure that that is a fair question to ask the head of the department.*

Senator DASTYARI: *How is it not a fair question to ask the secretary?*

Senator RHIANNON: *The question can be asked.*

CHAIR: *Because it is a political question.*

Senator XENOPHON: *Could the secretary take it on notice?*

Mr Varghese: *I will take it on notice.*

Answer

There has been no change in the Australian Government's position on the legal status of the Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem.