

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 71

Program: DFAT

Topic: Palestine

Question in Writing

Senator Xenophon

Question

- 1. *Has Australia's Ambassador to Israel, Dave Sharma, had any further meetings with the Israeli housing minister or officials?*¹**
- 2. *Is it the Government's view that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem?***

Answer

- (1) No.
- (2) The issue raised by this question has been the subject of legal advice provided by the Department to the Government. That advice is subject to legal professional privilege and is therefore confidential.

¹ Haaretz, an Israeli newspaper, reported that Australia's Ambassador to Israel, Dave Sharma, met with the Israeli housing minister in East Jerusalem on 14 May 2014 (P.A. complains to Australia after envoy meets Israeli official in East Jerusalem, 15 May 2014). The report quotes a letter of protest issued by the Palestinian Authority which states that: "Australia is under a clear obligation to respect and ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Person in Time of War and that a State which knowingly assists another State in the commission of an internationally wrongful act bears responsibility for the violation."