



SENATOR THE HON BOB CARR

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CANBERRA

Mr Michael Danby MP
PO Box 2086
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14 FEB 2013

Dear Mr Danby

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 2012 on behalf of your constituent ^{47F(1)} [REDACTED] of Caulfield North regarding AusAID funding to the University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (the Centre).

Funding was provided under the International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS) through the Centre for the travel and accommodation costs of conference delegates. ISSS provided \$46,592 to assist 18 foreign delegates to attend the "Communicating Peace" conference from July 6-10, 2010, and \$14,036 for four delegates for the "Peace and Justice in a Globalised World" conference from November 24-28, 2012.

ISSS supports the Australian Government's objectives of helping developing countries build knowledge and linkages between Australia and partner developing countries. ISSS guidelines specify that funding will not be provided for seminars which have political or religious objectives, or are inconsistent with Australian community interests. The ISSS is a discretionary, competitive scheme with funding contingent upon, and assessed for, the relevance of seminars to AusAID objectives and financial probity.

AusAID's overseas staff check delegates for suitability. AusAID was not aware of any connection between the Centre, or its Director, Associate Professor Jake Lynch, and the Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS) Scheme when funding was provided.

AusAID has been assured, in writing, that all funds have been used for agreed ISSS purposes and not to support the BDS Scheme. I should also note that Associate Professor Lynch's refusal to assist ^{47F(1)} [REDACTED] fellowship application was in no way connected to the provision of AusAID funding for conference delegates. Professor Ivison, Head of the University of Sydney's Faculty of Arts, has publically confirmed that the University does not support the BDS Scheme.

I trust that this information is of assistance to ^{47F(1)} [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
^{22(1)(a)}

Bob Carr