

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Manufacturing Sovereignty
Witness:	The Hon. Ben Carroll MP
Committee Member:	Mr. Danny O'Brien
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Relevant text:

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. Secretary, can the partnership agreement between the government and Moderna be provided to the committee?

**Tim ADA:** Can I take that on notice with a view to consulting, Mr O'Brien?

**Bev McARTHUR:** Yes or no. Can it be provided?

**Tim ADA:** Let me take that on notice, if that is okay, to consult with the minister.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** The question is: is it going to be available publicly?

**Ben CARROLL:** That partnership, Mr O'Brien, involves many overseas partners, many strategic partners. It is at Monash University. We also have an industry and skills component of it. But as Mr Ada said, we will take that on notice. You would also appreciate there is an established chair, CEO, of that organisation. But we will take that on notice and get back to you.

**David LATINA:** And there is the Commonwealth government as well, which is a party to the Moderna overall arrangements.

Answer:

The Moderna project is governed by a series of agreements between Moderna, Monash University, the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Victoria. The agreements relate to complex commercial arrangements that involve highly sensitive confidential commercial information in relation to the each of the parties. The disclosure of these agreements would prejudice the public interest. Accordingly, the agreements are unable to be provided to the Committee.

## Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Into the Inquiry of 2023-24 Budget Estimates

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**Relevant text:**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. Are there any others that have already been funded that will actually be manufacturing?

**David LATINA:** There have been some facilities that have been supported as part of the funding that is provided, but they are some smaller ones. The most significant one would be Moderna.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. You made an announcement on 27 April about a partnership with Afrigen Biologics. Again, has there been any funding confirmed for that as yet?

**David LATINA:** Sorry, I missed the name of the company.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Afrigen Biologics.

**David LATINA:** I am not aware of the details of that agreement. I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Government of Victoria has recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South African Medical Council and Afrigen Biologics to advance mRNA vaccine collaboration. No funding has been confirmed under this MOU.

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Committee Member:	Ms Ellen Sandell MP
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Relevant text:

**Ellen SANDELL:** Thank you. I also would like to ask about defence manufacturing. You mentioned that Melbourne is hosting the land forces expo in 2024 and every two years after that. You are predicting delegations from 30 countries around the world will attend the defence expo. Are you aware whether any of these delegations will be from nations whose defence forces have a known record of human rights abuses or poor record of human rights?

**David LATINA:** Will be what, sorry? I missed that last bit: 'will the delegations be –'

**Ellen SANDELL:** Will any of the delegations be from nations whose defence forces have a known history of human rights abuses or poor human rights records?

**David LATINA:** I do not think that the delegations have been finalised yet for the event in 2024.

**Ellen SANDELL:** Okay.

**Ben CARROLL:** The other state it was in, David, before it was –

**David LATINA:** In Queensland.

**Ben CARROLL:** In Queensland. Ms Sandell, we are happy to take that on notice and talk to Queensland and see if they had any of these issues arise. But it was quite competitive to get this, and we do think it will be a really important conference here for Melbourne, Victoria.

Answer:

Responsibility for the invitation of international delegations to the Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition sits with the event organisers, AMDA Foundation and the Australian Government Department of Defence.

The Victorian Government's Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions has not yet been provided with a delegation list for Land Forces, as the event is not scheduled to occur until September 2024.