

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 65

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following questions at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

In relation to AFP assistance to Sri Lanka:

- a) when did the Sri Lanka liaison office open,
- b) when was a decision made to second an intelligence analyst,
- c) when did planning begin for Sri Lanka liaison office, and
- d) please explain the nature of assistance provided to Sri Lanka and any other countries associated with the package of measures.

The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:

- a) The AFP Colombo Office commenced operations on 16 June 2009, with the arrival of the Senior Liaison Officer.
- b) On 12 May 2009, a New Policy Initiative was announced from the 2009/2010 Budget to fund an intelligence analyst position. On 7 July 2009, an AFP Intelligence Officer commenced in the AFP Colombo Office.
- c) A feasibility study for the establishment of an AFP presence in Sri Lanka was conducted in 2005.
- d) Since the establishment of the AFP Colombo Office, this post has provided a range of assistance to the Sri Lanka Police Service (SLPS), in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation. The MoU was signed by the SLPS and the AFP on 14 May 2009.

Training and development support has included the attendance of four SLPS officers to the AFP sponsored Asia Regional Law Enforcement Management Program in Vietnam, focussing on senior officer management training. Currently, one SLPS officer is participating in the Police Management Development Program conducted by the Australian Institute of Police Management.

A package of information technology and office equipment is being prepared for delivery to enhance the ability of SLPS teams to combat people smuggling and human trafficking activity. AFP Colombo also assisted the SLPS to participate in a number of regional people smuggling workshops and forums.

Other opportunities for local police capacity building are being examined.