

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Program SPCG

Question No. 76

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

- a. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio?
- b. Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?
- c. Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments? How much? What will happen to the funding now?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Election commitment	Status
Counter-Terrorism White Paper	Delivered. The White Paper was released on 23 February 2010.
Funding 500 extra AFP officers	In staged progress. Funds committed in 2008/9 Budget. Implementation is on track.
Conducting a Federal Audit of Police Capabilities	Delivered. The Federal audit of police capabilities (known as the Beale Review) "New Realities: National Policing in the 21st Century" was finalised in line with expected time frames. It was publicly released in December 2009 and implementation of recommendations is underway.
Joint Inter Agency Taskforce West (JIATF-W)	Alternative approach taken. The AFP has previously advised Government there is a strong relationship and unencumbered exchange of law enforcement intelligence with JIATF-West.
AFP recruitment and retention program	Delivered. Significant programs are underway: Current commitments are on track for delivery. Progress has been made with early increases in number of Women in the AFP (eg all recruit courses now have a target of 50% women); targeting recruitment programs which recruited rural and remote women as PSOs. A people strategy and workforce planning framework have been delivered; research targeting women and Indigenous Australians has been completed and findings put into effect.

<p>AFP Indigenous Recruitment Strategy</p>	<p>Delivered. Significant programs are underway: Current commitments are on track for delivery. Progress has been made with early increases in the number of Indigenous staff in the AFP eg targeting recruitment programs which recruited Indigenous Australians as PSOs. Research targeting indigenous Australians has been completed. Indigenous graduate programs have increased whilst Indigenous cadetships will commence in 2010. AFP wide Indigenous Cultural Appreciation program is on track to deliver in 2010. AFP is now a sponsor of several Indigenous recruitment and education programs with senior staff engaged across the sector. Recruitment marketing targets contemporary Indigenous communication channels.</p>
<p>National Crime Database</p>	<p>In progress. In August 2009, the Standing Committee of Attorneys General agreed to a set of measures to respond to organised crime including action to address impediments to information and intelligence sharing and interoperability. The Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) Board subsequently endorsed the Protocol for Information Sharing for Serious and Organised Crime and the Protocol on Multi-Jurisdictional Investigations for Serious Organised Crime on 2 September 2010. A feasibility study into the establishment of a national case management capability was recently completed and will be considered by the CrimTrac Board of Management on 2 December 2010.</p>
<p>Increase in X-ray machines at ports</p>	<p>Delivered. The commitment to increase cargo inspection facilities at four regional ports has been delivered with each of the four new and expanded cargo examination facilities having commenced full sea cargo examination operations.</p>
<p>Review changes to counter-terrorism laws in the UK and other countries before proposing amendments to Australian laws.</p>	<p>Delivered. Legislation was passed by Parliament in November 2011.</p>
<p>Firearm safety</p>	<p>In progress. Under a one year Funding Agreement, the Department provided funds to the Firearms Safety Foundation (Victoria) to develop a range of firearms safety initiatives, including training and materials.</p>
<p>Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Delivered. UN Declaration endorsed April 2009.</p>
<p>Create Safer Suburbs through CCTV like initiatives</p>	<p>Delivered. 22 Community Projects have been funded through the Safer Suburbs Plan. These range from community safety projects through to multimillion dollar projects involving the installation of security related infrastructure including CCTV and lighting. Funding agreements are in place for all projects and recipients are working to deliver the projects.</p>
<p>Conduct a Judicial inquiry into the handling of Dr Haneef's case</p>	<p>Delivered. The public report of the Inquiry conducted by the Hon John Clarke QC, along with the Government's response to the report, was tabled in Parliament on 23 December 2008.</p>
<p>Remove discrimination on the grounds of sexuality from all commonwealth legislation</p>	<p>Delivered. In 2008, 84 Commonwealth laws were amended to remove discrimination against same-sex couples and their children. All of these reforms have now commenced.</p>

Restore trust and integrity through reform of suppression orders	In progress. Nationally consistent model legislation governing the making of suppression orders was agreed to by the Standing Committee of Attorneys General in May 2010. Initial consultation with stakeholders on a national register of suppression orders has been undertaken and further consultation about implementation is ongoing.
Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	Delivered. Australia acceded to the optional protocol on 4 December 2008 and it entered into force for Australia on 4 March 2009.
Restore trust and integrity through reform to provide shield protection for journalists and other professionals	In progress. In 2009 the Government introduced amendments to the Evidence Act to strengthen protection for journalists and their sources. That Bill lapsed when Parliament was prorogued. The Government is working closely with Mr Wilkie MP to support the passage of his Private Members' Bill, Evidence Amendment (Journalists' Privilege) Bill 2010. The Bill passed the House of Representatives on 28 October 2010.
Conduct and formalise a genuine consultation for appointment of federal judges, maintain federal court funding at existing levels, and talk to courts about self-represented litigants' growth	Delivered. The Government has established new processes for extensive consultation on federal judicial appointments. Funding of the federal courts has increased since 2007-08, although there has been some movement of funds between courts as the jurisdiction of each court has evolved. The Access to Justice Strategic Framework emphasises early intervention and providing better ways to prevent and resolve disputes. Ways to encourage this, particularly in relation to self-represented litigants are being considered.
Conduct national consultation into Human Rights and Responsibilities	Delivered. The Consultation Report was provided to the Attorney-General on 30 September and released publicly on 8 October 2009.
Reduce spending on government legal services purchasing	In progress. First tranche of reforms commenced on 1 July 2008. The Attorney-General commissioned a review of Commonwealth legal services procurement on 20 March 2009. Government considering report of Blunn/Krieger review into Commonwealth legal services procurement.
Protecting Essential Services	Largely delivered. The Commonwealth manages and coordinates the Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN), which is a forum where industry and all levels of government work together to share vital information on critical infrastructure protection and organisational resilience. The TISN is recognised as a highly successful business-government partnership. Work is now underway to reposition the CIP program to critical infrastructure resilience. The A-G launched the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy in June 2010. The implementation plan for the Strategy is in the process of being developed and agreed between stakeholders.
Secure Schools Program	Delivered. The first funding was announced in 2009 with 29 schools being awarded grants totalling almost \$8 million. The second funding round was concluded in 2010 with 40 schools awarded funding of \$11.714 million. All funding has now been awarded and recipients are working to deliver the funded projects.