

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 79**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

In relation to the People Smuggling Strike Team:

1. What is the current amount of funding allocated per year for the People Smuggling Strike Team?
2. How many staff are in the People Smuggling Strike Team? Has this number changed over the past twelve months? And over the past three years?
3. Where are the staff located?
4. Is the People Smuggling Strike Team involved with the anti-people smuggling campaign run by Customs? If yes what is the involvement?

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

1. The Combined People Smuggling Strike Team funding for 2012-2013 is \$7.2 million. This includes \$4.6 million from AFP core funding and \$2.6 million from the 2009-2010 budget measure.

The People Smuggling Strike Team funding for 2013-2014 is \$4.7 million.

2. People Smuggling Strike Team Staffing figures for the past four years are as follows:

- 27 September 2012 - 108 members
- 27 September 2011 – 87 members
- 27 September 2010 – 71 members
- 27 September 2009 – 41 members

3. The People Smuggling Strike Team is located in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. The People Smuggling Strike Team also deploys officers on a five week basis to Christmas Island.

The AFP employs a flexible investigations model which has the ability to deploy investigators across crime types and around Australia according to operational priorities.

4. The AFP is a member of the Whole of Government communications working group, which is led by Customs. Members of the AFP's National Media team represent the AFP on the working group.