

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES  
28 February 2017**

**Home Affairs Portfolio**

**Program: Australian Federal Police**

**Question number and title: AE17-086 - AFP taskforces and details of illicit firearms matters**

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

1. Please provide a list of every AFP taskforce within the Federal Policing and National Security Program with:
  - a) The date each taskforce was established;
  - b) Each taskforce's staffing level (as average staffing level), including:
    - i. current staffing level;
    - ii. staffing level in 2015-16; and
    - iii. projected staffing level for 2017-18
  - c) The broad area of each taskforce's work (e.g. gangs, illicit guns, fraud,);
  - d) The date each taskforce is currently funded to; and
  - e) The date they each taskforce is set to discontinue.
2. What steps is the AFP taking to address the effects of more than \$100 million reduction in funding to the AFP forecast over the forward estimates?
3. How many taskforces within the AFP are focused on illicit firearms?
4. Can you please provide information about the 'Targeting Illicit Gun Crime measures' mentioned by the Commissioner at the hearing on 28 February.
5. Please provide the number of illicit weapons that have been confiscated or seized by the AFP both in 2015-16 and in 2016-17. Please also provide a breakdown of how many of these were:
  - a) Handguns;
  - b) Category D or higher weapons;
  - c) Adler A110 lever-action shotguns.
6. Please provide the number of modified weapons that were confiscated or seized by the AFP both in 2015-16 and in 2016-17.

Answer:

1. The AFP works in partnership with many agencies on various taskforces, under a flexible working model. This allows the AFP to divert resources according to priority. To provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. The reduction in funding to the AFP over the forward estimates primarily relates to the cessation and movements within specifically funded measures as detailed below:

Appropriation Measure	Program	Expire	Movement Between		
			2016-17 and 2017-18 \$'000	2017-18 and 2018-19 \$'000	2018-19 and 2019-20 \$'000
Addressing gang violence and organised crime - National Anti-Gang Taskforce, Gang Intelligence Centre and Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce	1.1	30/06/2017	(13,065)	-	-
Official development assistance - Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands - continuation	1.2	30/06/2017	(62,993)	-	-
Papua New Guinea Incentive Package - Law and Order	1.2	30/06/2017	(33,799)	-	-
Timor-Leste Police Development Programme	1.2	30/06/2018	(756)	(5,648)	-
Extension of the Northern Territory Child Abuse Taskforce	1.1	30/06/2018	(59)	(794)	-
Foreign Fighters	1.1	Ongoing	147	-	-
Parliament House	1.1	Ongoing	28	-	-
Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices	1.1	Ongoing	22	-	-
Close Personal Protection	1.1	Ongoing	(3,251)	-	71
Data Centre Transition Phase 1 (fully offset within AFP resources)	1.1	30/06/2019	-	-	-
Trade Union Royal Commission	1.1	31/12/2016	(2,988)	-	-
Enhanced Protective Security for Law Enforcement Agencies	1.1	30/06/2020	(2,976)	(837)	(101)
Cyber Security	1.1	30/06/2020	2,249	36	58
Enhanced Protective Security Arrangements Further Funding	1.1	Ongoing	1,346	(3,391)	43
Data Centre Transition Phase 2 (Fully offset within AFP resources)	1.1	30/06/2019	-	-	-
Unified Operational Communications - Phase 1 (Fully offset within AFP resources)	1.1	30/06/2020	-	-	-
Continuation of the Joint Police Taskforce for the Registered Organisations Commission (ROC)	1.1	30/06/2020	2,914	(26)	10
Keeping Illegal Guns off our Streets and our Communities Safe	1.1	31/12/2019	19,681	(405)	(22,097)
Minor Adjustments to WoG and AFP Specific Savings Measures	1.1, 1.2		4,211	893	6,545
Efficiency Dividend Impact	1.1, 1.2		(21,363)	(17,306)	(13,469)
WCI Adjustments	1.1, 1.2		10,428	12,077	12,862

**(100,224)      (15,401)      (16,078)**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Departmental Appropriation per AGD PAES page 62</b>	<b>1,024,804</b>	<b>924,581</b>	<b>909,180</b>	<b>893,102</b>

3. Whilst there are no AFP taskforces specifically focused on illicit firearms, detecting, deterring and disrupting Organised Crime Groups importing illicit firearms is a key focus.

The Organised Crime function investigates complex organised criminal activities, which may include the importation of illicit firearms. The AFP is also a member of the National Illicit Firearms Strategy Advisory Group (NIFSAG) – Operation ATHENA, which was established to review and coordinate national operational responses to firearms in order to identify gaps and opportunities for disruption.

4. At MYEFO 2016-17 the Government provided \$64.4 million over four years from 2016-17 to 2019-20 to the AFP and ACIC to enhance the tracking and detection of illegal firearms on our streets and the importation of illegal firearms into Australia.

This included:

- \$35.4 million to the AFP to extend the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS) and \$3.5 million to extend the ACIC’s Australian Gangs Intelligence Coordination Centre for a further two years (2017-18 and 2018-19); totalling a \$38.9 million commitment.
- \$25.4 million over four years to enhance the AFP’s capability to target illicit gun crime through increased covert online activities and by expanding the National Forensics Rapid Lab capability to include firearms.
- This funding built on the 2013-14 Budget measure titled “Addressing gang violence and organised crime — National Anti-Gang Taskforce, Gang Intelligence Centre and Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce”, and delivers on the Government’s 2016 election commitment Keeping Illegal Guns off our Streets and our Communities Safe.

5. The AFP seized 2,228 weapons in 2015-16 and 1,503 weapons to date in 2016-17:

Weapon type	2015-16	2016-17
(a) Handguns	75	64
(b) Category D or higher weapons	0	2
(c) Adler A110 lever action shotguns	0	0
Other firearms	612	384
Other weapons	1,585	1,564
<b>Total weapons seized</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>2,014</b>

6.

Weapon type	2015-16	2016-17
Modified firearm	6	2
Other modified weapon	2	4
Total weapons identified as modified	8	6

Caveats:

*The tabulated data rely on investigators entering the item details into the AFP's case management system PROMIS, and entering the terms "modified" or "improvised" into the Item Description (for Question 6).*