

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.2 AGD Operating Expenses - National Security and Criminal Justice

Question No. BE17-033

Senator Watt asked the following question on 24 May 2017:

Senator WATT: More generally, beyond firearms, I am not sure whether it is your part of the department that considers criminal justice policy in general, but one of the other measures that the commissioner advised would need to be taken was a cutback to the National Anti-Gang Taskforce. Has there been any work done by your department to consider the impact of this cut on agencies' ability to fight gangs, including bikie gangs?

Ms Rose: Not that I know of. I would probably like to take that on notice because I am not aware of the specific cuts that the commissioner was proposing. Certainly the agencies that are in the portfolio that have more of an operational viewpoint, such as the ACIC and the AFP and other areas, are all joint members of those task forces and they would absolutely have a view on whether that would impact on the outcomes. So, if you do not mind, we might take that on notice.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department is not aware of any proposal to reduce the operational activities of the Australian Federal Police-led National Anti-Gangs Squad. On 29 July 2016, the Minister for Justice announced an additional \$35.4 million to extend the operation of the National Anti-Gangs Squad until 30 June 2019.

Funding for law enforcement taskforces, such as the National Anti-Gangs Squad, has always been provided for a fixed number of years. Any decision to extend Commonwealth funding for the taskforce beyond its nominated end date would be a matter for the Australian Government.