

# SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

## BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

### Australian Federal Police

#### Question No. BE17-063

#### **Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked the following question on 25 May 2017:**

Ms Close: using a carriage service to groom persons under 16 years of age. There are a raft of offences there that we have investigated. Again, I can probably provide some specifics if you provide the questions on notice to us. That would be really helpful.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Sure. That would be helpful, thank you. How many referrals per month does the AFP make to international agencies in respect of cybersex trafficking?

Ms Close: I would have to take that on notice in terms of how many per month. It is a significant number.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: When you say 'significant', could you give me a ballpark figure?

Ms Close: I can turn it around to the other way and say that in 2016 we in the Australian Federal Police have received a total of 8,600 reports of alleged child pornography. In terms of how many we make offshore, I will take that on notice.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: The reports in relation to child pornography could include still images, material that had not necessarily been commissioned recently by a person?

Mr Colvin: Absolutely, yes.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Would it be possible to get a breakdown of those reports, to see just how many of those reports related to the commissioning of child sexual abuse overseas to then be viewed on the internet?

Ms Close: I will certainly take that on notice.

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

In responding to the question, we have taken 'cybersex trafficking' to mean a person using the internet to view, to pay to view, or to provide instructions and view, in real time, child sexual exploitation. This type of offending against children is referred to by law enforcement as Live Distance Child Abuse (LDCA).

The AFP received 8625 reports of alleged child exploitation material in 2016.

A large proportion of these reports were received from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). United States legislation requires Electronic Service Providers (ESPs) operating in the United States to report child exploitation material to NCMEC. ESPs that make reports to NCMEC include Facebook, Google, Dropbox, Twitter and other large multinational corporations.

ESPs report to NCMEC a wide range of offending. This includes contact offending, Travelling Child Sex Offenders (TCSO), image sharing and LDCA.

From 1 June 2016 through to 30 May 2017 the AFP has reported 25 matters internationally that relate to child exploitation material online. These referrals were not limited to LDCA and may have included conduct related to a range of online child sex offences.