

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Federal Police

Question No. BE17-166

Senator Pratt asked the following question on 05 June 2017:

1. What action is the AFP taking to improve the appropriateness of the referrals?
2. What community outreach does the AFP do to engage victims of modern slavery?
3. How often does this outreach occur?
4. Who in the AFP is responsible for outreach?
5. What outcomes do you expect to see from the AFP's work in this area?
6. How do you monitor its effectiveness?
7. Of the 38 persons referred onto the Support Program in each of the last two FY, how many of people impacted by forced marriage decided not to cooperate with the AFP and were thus, ineligible for the full program?

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

Improving appropriateness of referrals to AFP:

The AFP is an active participant of both the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery's multi-stakeholder Labour Exploitation Working Group and the NSW and Commonwealth Government Working Group on Forced Marriage. In these forums, the AFP recently provided a summary and outline of the AFP referral process to other agencies. The aim of this information sharing is to ensure referring agencies and civil society organisations understand the operational thresholds within which AFP works.

Further, this referral process has recently been reaffirmed during the AGD-led Forced Marriage Workshops, which were attended by a wide-range of government and non-government agencies and facilitated by the AGD in every state and territory capital.

The AFP and Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), as a primary referring agency, are working together to improve and refine the existing DIBP-AFP human trafficking referral protocol and process to ensure the quality of the referrals are to a high standard.

What community outreach does the AFP do to engage victims of modern slavery? How often does this outreach occur? Who in AFP is responsible for outreach?

Under the *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-19* the AFP is committed to supporting initiatives which promote education and awareness raising in the community. The AFP maintains Community Liaison Teams in each regional office. The Community Liaison Teams, and members directly involved in human trafficking investigations, work continuously to build positive and trusting relationships with relevant

communities to provide education and information on the existence of human trafficking and help build trust with victims.

The AFP has productive working relationships with a number of non-government organisations (NGOs) in the human trafficking space. The AFP provides training and awareness sessions to a number of NGOs on request or when deemed necessary. The AFP partnered with AGD and specialist NGOs over May and June 2017 to deliver forced marriage awareness-raising workshops in each state and territory. The AFP also invites particular NGOs to attend and deliver information sessions to the biannual AFP Human Trafficking Investigation Course. These courses are attended by members from a range of agencies including the AFP, DIBP and state/territory police. The existence and effectiveness of these relationships is a measure of success of AFP's community engagement.

What outcomes do you expect to see from the AFP's work in this area?

Increased collaboration with NGOs and broader ongoing community engagement aim to increase community awareness of potential human trafficking and increase law enforcement awareness of human trafficking indicators. Collectively, these factors are likely to increase referrals to the AFP. Recent increases in reporting have been attributed in part to the education and awareness that is being conducted within communities.

How do you monitor its effectiveness?

Effectiveness is monitored in a variety of ways. The AFP reviews statistics relating to referrals, investigations, prosecutions and convictions. The AFP also reviews the number of victims referred to the Support to Trafficked Person Program (STPP) each year, and conducts annual client services surveys to monitor the effectiveness of the STPP.

The primary mechanism for monitoring progress under the National Action Plan is through the Australian Government's annual Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery report to the Australian Parliament.

Of the 38 persons referred onto the Support Program in each of the last two FY, how many of people impacted by forced marriage decided not to cooperate with the AFP and were thus, ineligible for the full program?

The STPP, administered by the Department of Social Services, is broken into four streams. All suspected trafficked people referred onto the STPP by the AFP are eligible to receive up to 45 days on the Assessment and Intensive Support Stream, irrespective of whether they are willing or able to assist with the investigation or prosecution of a human trafficking or slavery-related offence. A further 45 days on the Extended Intensive Support Stream is available, on a case-by-case basis, to trafficked people who are particularly vulnerable for reasons include their age, ill health, trauma or practical impediment. Children are automatically entitled to receive up to 90 days intensive support. After the Assessment Stream, eligible clients will be moved to the Justice Support Stream.

Of the 76 people referred to the STPP in the last two financial years (2014-2015 and 2015-2016), 20 were referred in relation to forced marriage. Of those, 10 accessed the Justice Support Stream. The remaining 10 did not access the Justice Support Stream, either because the client voluntarily

elected to leave the STPP or because the AFP determined the client was no longer eligible for the STPP.

The AFP deems someone no longer eligible for the STPP if the client is no longer suspected to have been the victim of a human trafficking or slavery-related offences or if inquiries have not revealed any offence of human trafficking. Inquiries about clients' election to leave the STPP are best directed to the Department of Social Services.