

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

**Australian Federal Police**

**Question No. BE17-170**

**Senator Pratt asked the following question on 05 June 2017:**

- 1) On what date was the new bilateral policing program between Australia and Solomon Islands agreed?
- 2) What are the parameters of the new Australian Solomon Island bilateral policing program and what are the main functions to be carried out by the AFP?
- 3) With respect to the Australian Solomon Islands Bilateral Policing program
  - a) What is the length of this new bilateral policing program?
  - b) How many AFP personnel will be based in Solomon Islands?
- 4) RAMSI Special Coordinator Quinton Devlin has stated AFP personnel and their families will be housed in concentrated housing compounds.
  - a) Is this housing pre-existing or has it been purpose built?
  - b) What will be the annual cost of housing AFP personnel in this accommodation?
  - c) Will this cost be met by ODA?
  - d) Will all AFP personnel be based in Honiara?
- 5) Will AFP facilities be located within the Australian High Commission Facilities or remain at the RAMSI base?
- 6) What if any was Australia's contribution to the newly opened Transnational Crime Unit – was this in any part allocated to ODA?

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

- 1) The new Solomon Islands Police Development Program (SIPDP) began on 1 July 2017. The design of this bilateral policing program was approved by the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) Participating Police Force (PPF) Board of Management on 7 December 2016. Funding for the SIPDP was announced in the 2017 Budget.
- 2) The Solomon Islands Police Development Program (SIPDP), managed by the AFP has been designed to work with the Solomon Islands Justice Program and the Solomon Islands Governance Program, managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The establishment of the SIPDP will build on the gains made by RAMSI by helping to strengthen the capability and responsiveness of the RSIPF so that it can better undertake community policing and maintain security in Solomon Islands. The three priority areas are:

- Institutional strength and capability
- Community-Level Service Delivery
- Stakeholder collaboration.

To support SIPDP's three priorities, AFP activities will focus on:

- Mentoring support and training for senior police officers and select middle managers, including in legislative and regulatory mandates (e.g. the *Police Act 2013* and *Family Protection Act 2014*), professional standards and strategic planning.
- Capacity development support to RSIPF investigations; criminal intelligence and crime prevention; public order management and officer skills maintenance; and prevention of family and gender-based violence,
- Strengthening of corporate and governance functions.
- Support for the consolidation of the limited rearmament of the RSIPF.

- 3) With respect to the Australian Solomon Islands Bilateral Policing program:
  - a) SIPDP commenced on 1 July 2017 and has funding for four years through to 30 June 2021.
  - b) 43 AFP personnel will be based in the Solomon Islands plus an additional Fire Rescue Officer.
- 4)
  - a) The housing for AFP members is a combination of pre-existing and some purpose built leased accommodation. The purpose built accommodation is being built by lessors in the Solomon Islands to lease to the AFP.
  - b) The estimated cost of accommodation for AFP members is \$3.2m per annum.
  - c) The cost is considered ODA eligible in accordance with the OECD Development Assistance Committee principles.
  - d) SIPDP personnel will be permanently based in Honiara. Provincial travel may be undertaken as required to support the delivery of outcomes to the broader Solomon Islands population.
- 5) The new program will not be based at the Australia High Commission. AFP members deployed to SIPDP and the program support facilities will be co-located with the RSIPF. The RAMSI base at Guadalcanal Beach Resort is currently being decommissioned.
- 6) The RSIPF Transnational Crimes Unit opened a new office in May 2017. The AFP's contribution is through an ODA funded Transnational Crime Unit advisor.