

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission & Australian Institute of Criminology

Question No. BE17-179

Senator Pratt asked the following question on 28 August 2017:

What is current the status of the ACIC/AIC merger?

In light of the 2017-18 Budget decision, what roles will ACIC play in the ongoing operations of the AIC?

Does the AIC have an operating deficit?

How much is it?

What is the reason for the deficit?

How are you going to address that deficit?

Please provide the ASL of research staff employed at the AIC for the following years

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18

Has there been a re-allocation of staff from ACIC to AIC? If so, for what purpose?

Can you please guarantee whether capacity of the AIC to maintain its research capacity and standards?

Will there be any change in the focus of the work of the AIC over the next 24 months?

What are your targets in relation to the number of publications you are required to make each year, and in the number of those that should be peer-reviewed?

Did you meet those targets last financial year? If not, why not?

Are you on track this year?

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

1. In October 2015, staff from the AIC were transferred to the ACIC (then ACC) through a machinery of government process. Staff required for the functioning of the AIC were seconded to the Institute. To date, the legislative changes required to transfer the functions of the AIC to the ACIC have not been made.
2. The ACIC will continue to employ staff seconded to the AIC and to provide the corporate functions required by the AIC. The ACIC CEO continues as the Acting Director for the AIC.
3. Yes
4. \$0.375m (excluding depreciation)
5. The deficit is due to drawing down cash reserves for Criminology Research Grants and an unanticipated and unavoidable increase in property rates.
6. The deficit was funded from cash reserves and provision has been made in the 2017-18 budget for the property rates increase.
7. A breakdown of ASL of research staff is not available for the years requested.
8. No staff have been reallocated from the ACIC to the AIC. However, ACIC performs all of the corporate functions for the AIC, which means that many ACIC staff work on AIC tasks to fulfill the functions of the agency.
9. AIC will continue to expend its appropriation on the functions for which it is provided – conducting, funding and disseminating policy relevant research of national significance to inform crime and justice policy and practice. This will be conducted to the standards expected of a research institute.
10. The AIC's work program is established through consultation with the Criminology Research Advisory Council and is reviewed annually. As a result, research priorities can be expected to change to ensure the Institute's work remains policy relevant.
11. The AIC's publication targets are to produce:
 - 23 peer reviewed Trends and Issues papers and Research Reports, and
 - 25 other publications including statistical reports, statistical bulletins, briefs, journal articles, consultancy reports etc.
12. In 2016-17, the targets for peer reviewed reports and other publications were both achieved.

13. The AIC is on track to achieve its targets for 2017-18.