

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions

Question No. BE17-181

Senator Pratt asked the following question on 28 August 2017:

How many incidents of modern slavery (cases under divisions 270 and 271 of the Criminal Code - Slavery and Slavery-Like Offences) have been brought to/referred to the CDPP in the following years:

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18 (to date)

How many of these progressed to prosecution? Please list these by year:

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18 (to date)

How many resulted in a conviction? Please list these by year:

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18 (to date)

Has the CDPP provided any advice to Government about the level of prosecutions of slavery and slavery-like offences? If so, has the CDPP provided advice on why prosecutions and convictions remain low?

What support does the CDPP provide to victims during the prosecution of slavery and slavery-like offence?

What other support is the CDPP aware of for victims? Does the CDPP refer victims to services?

If not, why not?

Has the CDPP provided advice to the Minister on why there are so few prosecutions?

Has the CDPP provided advice to the Minister on why there are so few convictions?

What support do victims receive during the prosecution process?

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

1.

2011-12	7
2012-13	2
2013-14	1
2014-15	1
2015-16	5
2016-17	5
2017-18 (as at 18.9.17)	2

The CDPP has been consulted on other matters, but the investigation was terminated without a brief of evidence being referred to the CDPP for consideration.

2. CDPP records show that the following number of prosecutions were commenced in the given financial year. Two matters received by CDPP were referred on to the Queensland DPP.

2011-12	3
2012-13	1
2013-14	7
2014-15	1
2015-16	6
2016-17	5
2017-18 (as at 18.9.17)	2

3. CDPP records show the following matters were finalised in the following years, which resulted in a conviction.

2011-12	4
2012-13	0
2013-14	2
2014-15	0
2015-16	1
2016-17	2
2017-18 (as at 18.9.17)	0

One additional matter which was prosecuted by a State prosecution agency and was finalised in 2012/2013.

The above data reflects matters received within a given financial year and does not provide a percentage basis for the number of matters prosecuted as matters received in one year may be finalised in another financial year.

These figures do not represent a conviction rate as a matter may be prosecuted in one year but finalised in another year.

4. As a prosecution agency, CDPP only acts on briefs of evidence referred to it by investigation agencies. On receipt of a brief of evidence the CDPP assesses the matter in accordance with the *Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth*. If there is sufficient evidence and the matter is in the public interest then a prosecution proceeds.

The CDPP on request has provided statistics and information to policy Departments.

5. The CDPP Witness Assistance Service provides support to victims of slavery and slavery-like offences during the prosecution process. Measures to consult, inform and recognise the important role of the victim in the prosecution role are set out in the CDPP *Victims of Crime Policy*. The CDPP works with the other providers of support and assistance available to victims of slavery and slavery-like offences, details about which are set out in the Reports of the Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery.
6. See 5
7. See 4
8. See 4
9. See 5.