

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

Question No. BE17-201

Senator Whish-Wilson asked the following question on 18 August 2017:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: All right. I have one other question, on a different matter I've been reading lately—unfortunately I don't have the articles in front of me—about Europe, about money laundering around Chinese syndicates. There's been a change of policy there, with the government pulling or tightening down on credit and loans, and businesses going into liquidation. Has there been any activity at all in that respect in Australia, given what's going on in the EU?

Mr Clark: I can't comment from an AUSTRAC perspective on that, no.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Because there may be investigations?

Mr Clark: No, because I'm not aware of those issues.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Just to be clear, you're not aware of any—

Mr Clark: I'm not aware that we have any involvement as an agency in those particular issues.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. It's not just the European issues. Are there any investigations underway in Australia in relation to this? I actually might get you the articles and send them to you if you don't mind.

Mr Clark: Okay. We can take that on notice.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes, if you could take it on notice, that's probably the best way to go. Thank you.

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

AUSTRAC is not in a position to advise whether there are investigations being conducted in Australia by law enforcement, or regulatory matters in relation to money laundering by Chinese syndicates.