



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE



COMMISSIONER

GPO Box 401, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone +61 2 6131 5600 Facsimile +61 2 6132 6600
www.afp.gov.au
ABN 17 864 931 143

6 February 2015

Senator the Honourable Ian Macdonald
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear *Senator Macdonald,*

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to clarify the responses I made during the Australian Federal Police's (AFP) Senate Estimates hearing before the Committee on 20 November 2014 in relation to questions that Senator Leyonhjelm asked.

Senator Leyonhjelm asked what training AFP officers have received to assist them in identifying members of different branches of Islam. I responded that everybody who works in the Counter Terrorism area undertakes Islamic awareness training, conducted by members of the Muslim community, which helps AFP officers understand the Muslim religion and the different aspects of the faith.

Subsequently, I have sought clarification and must advise the Committee that not all members have received Islamic awareness training, although it is available to all members. The AFP endeavours to have as many members as possible undertake this training, noting operational priorities.

AFP Learning and Development has consistently facilitated Islamic awareness training in various forms since 2003. This training is provided by an external provider, and ensures engagement with members of the Muslim community with 1324 AFP attendees completing courses at 6 January 2015. This total includes 64 of 144 members currently working in Counter-Terrorism. Further workshops are being planned for the first half of 2015.

As such, I am seeking a correction to my response made on page 127 of the Proof Committee Hansard dated Thursday 20 November 2014.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact me directly on .

Yours sincerely

Andrew Colvin
Commissioner