

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 153**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:**

Is the AFP aware of any methodology or estimates concerning the size of the illicit drug market in Australia, notwithstanding the fact that the illicit drug market is illegal and undercover and therefore it is not possible to calculate exactly its size?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

In relation to estimating the size of the illicit drug market in Australia, the AFP is aware of, monitors and contributes to research being conducted in relation to specific elements of Australia's illicit drug markets. For example, under the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF), research has or is being undertaken in relation to:

- The Sydney methamphetamine market (McKetin, Rushby and Kenworthy) – available on the NDLERF website;
- The development of methodologies to study MDMA (Ecstasy) markets (Najman & Mazerolle) – this report is close to being finalised;
- A simulation model of the illicit drug industry in Australia (Adkins, Barnes & Carmody) – currently underway; and
- Characteristics and dynamics of cocaine supply and demand in Sydney and Melbourne – available on NDLERF website.

Other illicit drug market indicators include results from research projects such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Drug Strategy Household Survey, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre's Illicit Drug Reporting System, the Party Drugs Initiative (now referred to as the Event Based Drug Initiative), and the Australian Institute of Criminology's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia project.

Internationally, the AFP monitors estimates by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on global production of illicit drugs which provide further indicators in relation to Australia's illicit drug markets.