

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 158**

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

Regarding the 16 identified victims of human trafficking in 2004-05 mentioned in the annual report:

- a) Provide the updated figures for 05-06?
- b) Indicate how many persons were charged as a result of the identification of those fourteen victims?
- c) Provide a list of names of persons charged.
- d) On how many occasions has the AFP identified a victim and, for whatever reason, not pressed a charge against any person.
- e) On those occasions, are you able to indicate why you did not (or were unable) to press charges against those people?

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

The annual report states that in 2004-05 the AFP identified 16 victims from Thailand, one from Indonesia and one from the Republic of Korea, a total of 18 victims.

- a) Two victims have so far been identified during 2005 - 06.
- b) Eight charges against six alleged offenders were laid during 2004 - 05. To date, 2 charges have been laid as a result of a police investigation in 2005 - 06.
- c) The matters referred to for the year 2005 - 06 (b) are ongoing and it would be inappropriate to release the names of the alleged offenders.
- d) There were 17 occasions in 2004 - 05 where a potential victim of human trafficking was identified where the assessment did not lead to charges being laid.
- e) On each occasion where a victim was identified, charges were not laid due to:
  - i. the non-specific nature of the information failed to identify an offender;
  - ii. the period of offence pre-dated the 1997 trafficking legislation;
  - iii. independent witnesses were no longer willing to testify in court resulting in a lack of corroborative evidence;
  - iv. no corroborative information was available to support the complainant;
  - v. the victim did not wish to proceed with the complaint and wished to return to their country of origin and;
  - vi. no offence was disclosed based on available information.