

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 128

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:

For the following financial years 2001/02, 02/03, 03/04, 04/05, 05/06 and 06/07 (to date):

- a) How many requests did the AFP receive from Centrelink relating to search and seizure powers?
- b) How many of these referrals were accepted?
- c) How many search warrants and how many arrest warrants did these referrals require?

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

- a) The AFP received the following number of referrals from Centrelink:

FINANCIAL YEAR	REFERRALS RECEIVED - TOTAL	ASSIST - SEARCH WARRANT	ASSIST - OTHER
2001/2002	143	24	2
2002/2003	149	28	3
2003/2004	130	58	13
2004/2005	117	79	18
2005/2006	167	119	10
2006/2007 (to date)	100	64	15
Total	806	372	61

* Referrals Received Total include referrals for investigation and requests for assistance

** Assist Search Warrant include all requests for search warrant assistance

*** Assist Other include requests for Administrative, Operational or AFP Outpost assistance

- b) The following number of referrals were accepted by the AFP:

FINANCIAL YEAR	REFERRALS ACCEPTED - TOTAL	ASSIST - SEARCH WARRANT	ASSIST - OTHER
2001/2002	104	24	1
2002/2003	133	28	3
2003/2004	106	58	13
2004/2005	109	79	16
2005/2006	164	119	10
2006/2007 (to date)	96	64	15
Total	712	372	61

- c) The AFP is unable to quantify the exact number of search warrants or arrest warrants required by these referrals. By way of explanation, of the 100 cases referred in 2006/2007, 64 cases have the case type "Search Warrant Assist". However, it can not be assumed that all of these

cases resulted in the execution of search warrants, just as some may have resulted in the execution of multiple search warrants. It should also be noted that additional search warrants may have been executed as a result of Centrelink referrals that triggered subsequent criminal investigations (undertaken by the AFP on behalf of Centrelink). Further, it is not common practice for the AFP to execute arrest warrants on behalf of Centrelink.