

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Question No. 9

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

- a) Were the allegations, aired on ABCs *Four Corners* program that large amounts of money had been illegally brought into the country and possibly taken out of the country by the Exclusive Brethren organisation, referred to the AFP, AUSTRAC or any other portfolio agency?
- b) If so, has the matter been investigated? If not, why not?

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

Australian Federal Police

- a) The AFP has not received a referral in relation to this matter and does not generally initiate investigations based solely on media reports.
- b) No investigation has been undertaken into the Exclusive Brethren.

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)

- a) No, the allegations were not referred to AUSTRAC.
- b) AUSTRAC is not an investigating agency.

The allegations were not referred to any other portfolio agency.