

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

**Output 2.1**

**Question No. 106**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:**

In the July 2007 round of the Proceeds of Crime Funding, the Attorney General's Department provided almost \$500,000 to the South East Asian Collaborative Group on Precursors to host forums with our Asia-Pacific neighbours to combat the illegal trade of chemicals used in the manufacturing of illicit drugs.

- a) Can you advise what the current status of the SEA Collaborative Group on Precursors is?
- b) Are they being held again this year? If not, why not?
- c) What is the impact of shutting these forums down on ongoing ACC investigations into the manufacturing and importation of illicit drugs?

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

Two forums have been convened by the Department within the Asia Pacific region: the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control (ACOG) and the South Pacific Precursor Control Forum (SPPCF).

The ACOG was established in 2006 to contribute to the prevention of precursor diversion into illicit drug manufacture in the Asian Region. The SPPCF was established in 2007 as a mechanism for regional countries of the South Pacific to consider issues associated with precursor diversion and illicit drug manufacture.

There have been four meetings of the ACOG to date, the most recent being in February 2008 (in Tokyo). There have been two meetings of the SPPCF (2007) and one legal workshop (2008). Resolutions and work programs arising from these forums are being progressed by member countries, including Australia. No date has yet been set for future meetings.

These forums are directed at discussions between governments on policy and technical issues related to precursor chemicals. They are not mechanisms for the exchange of operational intelligence. In conducting its investigations, the ACC continues to work closely with partner agencies in Australia and in the region.