

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

Sub Program All

Question No. 133

Senator Eggleston asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio? Please identify which election commitments are slipping, noting:

- a. Why are they experiencing slippages
- b. What their revised implementation dates are, where relevant
- c. What the implications are of the slippage

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

Election commitment	Status
Counter-Terrorism White Paper	Released. The White Paper was released on 23 February 2010.
Funding 500 extra AFP officers	In staged progress. Funds committed in 2008/9 Budget. Implementation is on track.
Conducting a Federal Audit of Police Capabilities	Delivered. The Federal audit of police capabilities (known as the Beale Review) "New Realities: National Policing in the 21st Century" was finalised in line with expected time frames. It was publicly released in December 2009 and implementation of recommendations is underway.
Joint Inter Agency Taskforce West (JIATF-W)	Alternative approach taken. The AFP has previously advised Government there is a strong relationship and unencumbered exchange of law enforcement intelligence with JIATF-West.
AFP recruitment and retention program	In progress. Significant programs are underway: Current commitments are on track for delivery. Progress has been made with early increases in number of Women in the AFP (eg all recruit courses now have at least 50% women); targeting recruitment programs which recruited rural and remote women as PSOs. A people strategy and workforce planning framework have been delivered; research targeting women and Indigenous Australians has been completed and findings put into effect.

AFP Indigenous Recruitment Strategy	In progress. Significant programs are underway: Current commitments are on track for delivery. Progress has been made with early increases in the number of Indigenous staff in the AFP eg targeting recruitment programs which recruited Indigenous Australians as PSOs. Research targeting indigenous Australians has been completed. Indigenous graduate programs have increased whilst Indigenous cadetships will commence in 2010. AFP wide Indigenous Cultural Appreciation program is on track to deliver in 2010. AFP is now a sponsor of several Indigenous recruitment and education programs with senior staff engaged across the sector. Recruitment marketing targets contemporary Indigenous communication channels.
National Crime Database	In progress. In August 2009 the Standing Committee of Attorneys General agreed to a set of measures to respond to organised crime including action to address impediments to information and intelligence sharing and interoperability. CrimTrac is undertaking a feasibility study for a national case management system.
Increase in X-ray machines at ports	Delivered. The commitment to increase cargo inspection facilities at four regional ports has been delivered with each of the four new and expanded cargo examination facilities having commenced full sea cargo examination operations.
Review changes to counter-terrorism laws in the UK and other countries before proposing amendments to Australian laws.	In progress. Government announced responses to reviews in December 2008. Discussion Paper on proposed amendments released for public consultation in August 2009. Legislation introduced in Autumn 2010 sittings.
Firearm safety	Largely delivered. Negotiations on the scope of the project have been conducted and a Funding Agreement is expected to be signed in the near future.
Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Delivered. UN Declaration endorsed April 2009.
Create Safer Suburbs through CCTV like initiatives	Delivered. 22 Community Projects have been funded through the Safer Suburbs Plan. These range from community safety projects through to multimillion dollar projects involving the installation of security related infrastructure including CCTV and lighting. Funding agreements are in place for all projects and recipients are working to deliver the projects.
Conduct a Judicial inquiry into the handling of Dr Haneef's case	Delivered. The public report of the Inquiry conducted by the Hon John Clarke QC, along with the Government's response to the report, was tabled in Parliament on 23 December 2008.
Remove discrimination on the grounds of sexuality from all commonwealth legislation	Delivered. In 2008, 84 Commonwealth laws were amended to remove discrimination against same-sex couples and their children. All of these reforms have now commenced.
Restore trust and integrity through reform of suppression orders	In progress. Nationally consistent model legislation governing the making of suppression orders is being developed in consultation with the Standing Committee of Attorneys General. Consultation with stakeholders on a national register of suppression orders is complete.
Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	Delivered. Australia acceded to the optional protocol on 4 December 2008 and it entered into force for Australia on 4 March 2009.
Restore trust and integrity through reform to provide shield protection for journalists and other professionals	In progress. The Evidence Amendment (Journalists' Privilege) Bill 2009 has passed the House of Representatives and has been introduced into the Senate.

<p>Conduct and formalise a genuine consultation for appointment of federal judges, maintain federal court funding at existing levels, and talk to courts about self-represented litigants' growth</p>	<p>Delivered. The Government has established processes for extensive consultation on federal judicial appointments.</p>
<p>Conduct national consultation into Human Rights and Responsibilities</p>	<p>Delivered. The Consultation Report was provided to the Attorney-General on 30 September and released publicly on 8 October 2009.</p>
<p>Reduce spending on government legal services purchasing</p>	<p>In progress. First tranche of reforms commenced on 1 July 2008. Govt considering report of Blunn/Krieger review into Cth legal services procurement.</p>
<p>Savings for Labor's better priorities – National Capital Authority</p>	<p>Delivered. Cost savings and efficiencies made in the NCA Budget in line with election commitment.</p>
<p>Protecting Essential Services</p>	<p>Largely delivered. The Commonwealth manages and coordinates the Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN), which is a forum where industry and all levels of government work together to share vital information on critical infrastructure protection and organisational resilience. The TISN is recognised as a highly successful business-government partnership. Work is now underway to reposition the CIP program to critical infrastructure resilience. The A-G will announce details of the program in May 2010.</p>
<p>Secure Schools Program</p>	<p>In progress. The first funding was announced in 2009 with 29 schools being awarded grants totalling almost \$8 million. The second funding round is in progress.</p>