

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

**Question No. 14**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:**

**Senator BRANDIS:** Staying with the PBS, I am interested in exploring what resources the ACC devotes to that part of its transnational crime activities as are concerned with illegal people smuggling. Are you able to tell us how many full-time equivalent staff you have devoted to that area of your activities?

**Mr Lawler:** I will endeavour to see if we have a figure, but I suspect we do not in that particular area.

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

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) does not have staff specifically dedicated to the issue of illegal people smuggling, however ACC intelligence obtained from examinations supports partner agency activities and contributes towards the production of strategic criminal intelligence.

Between 23 February 2011 and 14 April 2011, the ACC has undertaken 17 examinations to assist partner agency investigations into people smuggling, under the Australian Crime Commission Special Intelligence Operation Authorisation and Determination (*People Smuggling*) Determination, which ran from 9 June 2010 to 30 June 2011; and 1 examination on 12 August 2011 under the current National Security Impacts from Serious and Organised Crime Special Operation (NSISOC-SO), which superseded it.

Examinations are conducted by independent, statutory officers. The average FTE required to support an Examination is approximately four people per examination, for the period of the examination.

In addition the ACC's strategic intelligence team draws on intelligence from examinations, and other ACC investigations which may indicate people smuggling activity, in the development of its suite of classified products that make up the *Picture of Criminality in Australia*.

The ACC will continue to actively work in partnership with the Australian Federal Police People Smuggling Coordination Team (AFP PSCT) to support AFP PSCT investigations and identify opportunities where the ACC's powers and other capabilities will assist in achieving optimal operational outcomes.