

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 81**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:**

With regard to investigation performed by the AFP into human trafficking commenced since 1 January 2004:

- a) How many such investigations were commenced?
- b) Of those investigations how many -
  - i) have been completed; or
  - ii) are on going?
- c) What is the average length of time taken to complete such an investigation?
- d) What is the total and average number of trafficked persons involved in such investigations?
- e) How many of the completed investigations were –
  - i) referred to the CDPP for prosecution;
  - ii) referred to a state or territory jurisdiction;
  - iii) referred to an overseas jurisdiction;
  - iv) provide a breakdown by jurisdiction;
  - v) ceased without any recommended further action;

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

- a) Since 1 January 2004, the AFP has undertaken 125 Human Trafficking investigations and assessments.
- b) Of these,
  - i) 111 have been completed; and
  - ii) 14 are ongoing.
- c) The average length of time taken to complete an investigation that proceeds to prosecution is approximately two and a half years. For matters that do not proceed to prosecution the average investigation period is considerably shorter.
- d) The total number of trafficked persons identified by the AFP to date is 95. Of these 78 have accepted support. Most of the AFP investigations have involved one victim. There has been approximately five AFP investigations involving six to eight victims.
- e) Of the 111 completed investigations and assessments;
  - i) Ten matters have been referred to DPP for prosecution involving 36 victims
  - ii) No matters have been referred to state or territory jurisdictions
  - iii) The AFP maintains ongoing liaison and information exchange with foreign jurisdictions reflecting the transnational nature of people trafficking. This cooperation has resulted in the arrest of eight alleged people traffickers in Indonesia (one) and Thailand (seven).
  - iv) See point ii)
- v) 101 matters were ceased without any recommended further action. Reasons for finalisation of these matters include those where:
  - o No offence was disclosed.

- Insufficient evidence existed to support a prosecution.
- Victims elected not to provide a statement or assist an investigation.