

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 30

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

NTER: In what proportion of the investigations that you have done have you found that the issues revolved around underage sex rather than paedophilia?

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

The ACC does not undertake investigations regarding violence or child abuse in Indigenous communities. The ACC collects information about violence and child abuse issues to improve the national understanding of significant crime affecting Indigenous Australians. This information is provided to law enforcement agencies for investigation. It is also provided to relevant government agencies to inform strategy and policy responses.

Some intelligence collected by the Task Force has identified child sexual abuse issues including under-age sexual activity perpetrated by adults and problematic sexual activity between children, as being issues of concern across most communities rather than paedophilia. Under-age and problematic sexual activity types of behaviour are opportunistic and do not indicate a sexual preference for children. This contrasts with paedophilia which may feature pre-meditated 'grooming' behaviour and demonstrates a distinct sexual preference for children.