

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 5**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:**

Child protection policy discussion paper: Has there been an increase in the numbers of children identified as being at risk over 5 years to 2006/07.

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

The figures quoted in the Australian Government discussion entitled "Australia's Children: safe and well – A national framework for protecting Australia's children" were sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The data contained in the AIHW publication "*Child protection Australia 2006-07*" is based on data provided by state and territory child protection and support services. The figures relate to the number of occasions where authorities found that a child either was or was likely to be harmed, abused or neglected increased by 45 per cent from 40,416 in 2002-03 to 58,563 in 2006-07.

Australian Federal Police arrests relating to online child abuse have increased significantly in recent years as a result of increased law enforcement attention to this crime type. From March 2005 until November 2007 the AFP arrested 53 offenders and charged them with a total of 92 charges in relation to online child abuse offences. During the period Nov 2007 to June 2008 the AFP arrested 218 offenders and charged them with a total of 274 offences relating to online child abuse.