

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 31

Senator Trood asked the following questions at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator TROOD: Just on another matter in relation to the Solomons, my attention has been drawn to some complaints about the behaviour of AFP officers in the Solomons—drunkenness, carousing, generally bad behaviour. Have any complaints been made or brought to your attention in relation to those matters?

Mr Drennan: There have certainly been a very limited number of complaints in relation to the behaviour of AFP officers there. Those matters are dealt with by our professional standards area. We have a professional standards person posted to the Solomon Islands to deal with that. Where there are complaints about behaviours which are against our code of conduct or of a particular nature in relation to behaviour with local people, then those people are returned to Australia, post haste.

Senator TROOD: Do you maintain a register or list of these complaints?

Mr Drennan: Certainly, and that would be held by our professional standards area.

Senator TROOD: The service maintains a list of complaints so you know about the regularity with which they are being made, I assume.

Mr Drennan: Yes, we do.

Senator TROOD: Could I ask you to provide me with a list—you can take this on notice, obviously—of the frequency with which complaints are made about the behaviour of officers in relation to these kinds of things?

Mr Drennan: Certainly.

Senator TROOD: I am grateful for that reassurance, but I would still like you to give me on notice the frequency with which these matters are being reported to you.

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

The frequency of the complaints received is detailed in the below table:

Month Submitted	Totals
July 2010	1
August 2010	2
September 2010	0
October 2010	2
November 2010	3
December 2010	1
January 2011	2
February 2011	3
March 2011	2
April 2011	1
May 2011	1
TOTAL	18

Of these complaints nine relate to complaints of a general behaviour nature including the consumption of alcohol and inappropriate fraternisation.