

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 58

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator BARNETT: That is excellent and that is what I am seeking. I am happy for you to take it on notice, but I would like further and better particulars regarding exactly what you are saying.

Where the overseas aid budget has been made available or eligible—it is ODA eligible, using your words—I would like a comparison over the last three years, and then going forward so that I know, the public knows and this committee knows where the level of increase has been. Can you characterise that for us now? Has there been a significant increase over the last couple of years?

Mr Negus: I think for a number of years now we have been the second largest deliverer of aid offshore. As I have said, we have tried to work with AusAID to enhance that partnership so we are not duplicating resources but actually delivering a service on behalf of the Australian population.

Senator BARNETT: For that aid that you deliver offshore is that funded through AusAID or ODA?

Mr Negus: I am talking about the same thing. AusAID has control of the money, but again the department of finance and others would play a role in the allocation of that.

Mr Wood: I would certainly say that over the last three years if something has been ODA eligible in a bid that we are putting forward it is expected that we do declare that quite clearly and give cabinet the option of funding things through ODA where there is the possibility of that, or not, if it does not—

Senator BARNETT: As you should.

Mr Wood: I think the funding levels will be seen to be increasing over the three-year period, but I think—

Senator BARNETT: What about the next three-year period and in particular through to 2015 when we are aiming to meet our Millennium Development Goals?

Mr Wood: We will take on notice what is included in the forward estimates as well as the historical three-year data.

Senator BARNETT: I hope you can understand where I am coming from, at least in part. The aid budget has increased markedly through to 2015 to meet the Millennium Development Goals as committed by the government. I am seeking to know what proportion of that—how much of that—is being funded where, and specifically of the AFP services? Does that make sense?

Mr Wood: That is understood.

Senator BARNETT: I would like to get a comparison over the last three years and then going forward certainly through to 2015 or thereabouts, vis-a-vis forward estimates. Is that okay?

Mr Wood: Yes.

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

The AFP's actual past expenditure and approved budget estimates for the future years 2012 - 2015 appears in the table below:

ODA expenditure	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010-11 Expected Outcomes	2011-12 Revised Estimates	2012-13 Estimate	2013-14 Estimate	2014-15 Estimate
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Total for the AFP</i>	164.7	132.8	212.9	233.3	217.7	155.3	29	2.9

The reductions in anticipated ODA expenditure for 2012-13 through to 2014-15 reflects the terminating funding associated with IDG missions in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands (RAMSI), Sudan and the Pacific. It is anticipated that these figures will be revised upwards in subsequent Budgets if Government agrees to these missions being extended.