

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 40**

**Senator Madigan asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:**

**Senator MADIGAN:** Good morning, Commissioner. I assume that there is a war crimes section in the Australian Federal Police, is that correct?

**Mr Negus:** There is a team within our special operations area that does focus on war crimes, yes. It is not named that way, but it has a component of people with experience in that area.

**Senator MADIGAN:** Does this group have a formal name?

**Mr Colvin:** It is our special reference area. They deal with a lot of our more sensitive, difficult or political investigations as well as things like war crimes, yes.

**Senator MADIGAN:** When was this group put together?

**Mr Colvin:** This team has been in existence in one form or another under different names for a decade or more. It is a headquarters-based investigations unit.

**Senator MADIGAN:** How many personnel are involved in this unit?

**Mr Colvin:** In special references? In a general sense, we draw from a pool of around 336 investigators. I may have to take on notice the exact breakdown for the special references team.

**Senator MADIGAN:** You can take that question on notice.

**Mr Colvin:** I will have to.

**Senator MADIGAN:** Are you able to tell me what sort of money is allocated to the budget for these investigations currently?

**Mr Colvin:** For war crimes investigations, I would definitely have to take that on notice.

**Senator MADIGAN:** Could you also take on notice how much has been spent in the last five years on war crime investigations.

**Mr Colvin:** We can take that on notice.

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**Senator MADIGAN:** Over the years that this group has existed, how many briefs of evidence has it provided to the relevant Director of Public Prosecutions?

**Mr Colvin:** I would have to take on notice how many we have provided to the CDPP.

**Senator MADIGAN:** Further to that, I would like to know how many convictions have resulted as a result of your briefs of evidence.

**Mr Colvin:** There have been no convictions under Australian war crimes legislation that we are aware of. If that is not correct, I will correct the record.

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

1. There are 43 positions currently in Special References, this includes four investigative teams.
2. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) does not assign individual budgets for war crimes or record expenditure for war crimes individually.
3. \$1,868,687.84.

The AFP cannot provide an amount relating to supplier expenditure as these costs cannot be isolated from normal investigations expenditure.

4. To date, no case has been provided to CDPP.