

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 248

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) How much of the funding provided for the AFP overseas liaison network has been expended?
- b) Has all funding been expended?
 - (i) If not, how much funding has yet to be expended?
- c) Was there any variation to the stated budget for this program?
 - (i) If so, what was the variation?
 - (ii) Was additional funding provided, or did the program lose funding?
 - (iii) If the program lost funding, where was the funding transferred, and why?
 - (iv) Were any stop-gap measures put in place to ensure the continued operation of this program despite the variations?
- d) What was the stated outcome of the program at the time the funding commenced?
 - (i) Did the program meet its stated outcome?
 - (ii) If not, in which areas did it not meet its stated outcome?
 - (iii) Were any other measures or additional funding required to meet the stated outcome of the program?
- e) Has a review been conducted of the program?
 - (i) If so, could you provide a copy?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
 - (iii) Is one being conducted, or will one be conducted?
 - (iv) Are there any interim reports available?
 - (v) Are there any plans to produce any interim reports?

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

In the 2003-04 Budget, the Government provided continuation funding of \$5.9m over four years for the NIDS overseas liaison network. This measure is the renewal of funding provided in 1999-2000 under the Government's National Illicit Drugs Strategy.

- a) To the end of October 2005, \$3.4m has been spent.
- b) No.
 - (i) \$1.5m of the \$5.9m funding remains unspent at the end of October 2005.
- c) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) Not applicable.
 - (iv) Not applicable.

- d) The original funding allowed for the expansion of the AFP's overseas Liaison Officer Network. The network supports Australia's drug law enforcement intelligence and participates in joint investigations with overseas law enforcement agencies to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs reaching Australia.
- (i) Yes.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) No.
- e) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) No review has been required to be undertaken to date in relation to this specific policy initiative.
 - (iii) A review is scheduled to be undertaken as part of the 2007-08 budget process.
 - (iv) Not applicable.
 - (v) Not applicable.