

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 250

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 31 October 2005:

- a) How much of the funding provided for the expansion of the Law Enforcement Cooperation Programme 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 2002-03 Budget, the Government provided the AFP \$47.0m over four years to expand the Overseas Liaison Network (Law Enforcement Co-operation Program).

- a) This program was to expand the existing Overseas Liaison Network and with the expansion phase completed, it is not economically feasible to keep financial data relating to the specific additional funding. However, the Overseas Liaison Network as a whole has fully spent budgeted funding over the past 3 years.
- b) Yes.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- c) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) Not applicable.

- (iv) Not applicable.
- d) This program funded an additional 16 strategically placed AFP officers overseas to enhance cooperation with overseas law enforcement agencies. Police cooperation with overseas law enforcement authorities and the associated increased intelligence gathering and sharing will significantly enhance community protection from transnational criminal threats.
 - (i) Yes.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) No.
- (e) No review has been undertaken.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) As this measure is ongoing funding, no review has been required to be undertaken.
 - (iii) No.
 - (iv) No.
 - (v) No.