

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 277

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

- (a) Regarding the statement it is predominantly men who travel outside Australia for child sex tourism activities, could the AFP indicate how many women have been identified as engaging in these sorts of activities?
- (b) Have there been any charges or prosecutions laid against the women?
- (c) With which countries does Australia have a signed memorandum of understanding to combat child sexual abuse:
 - (i) Is Australia in negotiations with any other countries regarding a memorandum of understanding?
 - (ii) If so, are the AFP able to say which countries we are negotiating with?
 - (iii) Are we expected to sign any time soon.

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

- a) The AFP has received a small number of allegations relating to women procuring children for alleged male offenders in Australia. None of the allegations have been able to be substantiated to date.
- b) No.
- c) The AFP has negotiated transnational crime, including people trafficking and child sex tourism enforcement agreements, with law enforcement agencies from:

Indonesia
Colombia
United States Drug Enforcement Administration (El Paso Intelligence Centre)
Thailand
Philippines
Cambodia
Singapore

- (i) Yes.
- (ii) No, the negotiations are confidential.
- (iii) More agreements can be expected to be signed by the AFP and foreign law enforcement agencies in coming months.