

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 123

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

- (a) Is the Australian Federal Police (AFP) aware of the following comments made by DFAT official, David Ritchie, during a Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 2 November 2006, with regard to increasing the representation of Pacific Island nations' involvement in the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), "That's an area we can increase our efforts"?
- (b) Does the AFP share the view of Mr Ritchie? If so, can the AFP provide details of initiatives under consideration of implementation to achieve that goal.

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes. The AFP is committed to whole-of-government efforts in contributing to RAMSI.

As RAMSI is a multifaceted effort with programs in the Law and Justice, Economic Governance and Machinery of Government sectors, the AFP is not in a position to comment on overall staffing contributions by other Pacific Islands nations.

The RAMSI Participating Police Force (PPF) is widely represented by Pacific Island nations. The inclusion of Niue completes the contribution of all Pacific Islands Forum members to the RAMSI.

As at 27 October 2006, in the Solomon Islands there were **314** PPF members in RAMSI from **15** participating countries, including **227** personnel from Australia and **34** from New Zealand.

The following table provides a breakdown of Pacific Island contributions as at 27 October 2006.

PACIFIC ISLAND MEMBERS IN RAMSI

Country	No. in Mission as at 27 October 2006
VANUATU	3
TONGA	10
FIJI	8
NAURU	5
SAMOA	8
KIRIBATI	4
PNG	6
TUVALU	2
COOK ISLANDS	2
MARSHALL ISLANDS	1
PALAU	2
MICRONESIA	2

NIUE ¹	0
TOTAL	53

In addition to this, the AFP earlier this year appointed a former senior Tongan Policewoman as its Pacific Advisor with the International Deployment Group (IDG). More recently, the AFP has also commenced a program of rotating Pacific Island police officers through our training facility at the IDGs Majura Training Complex.

¹ The first two members from Niue are not represented in this table as they commenced their pre-deployment training on 14 October 2006 and are expected to enter mission on 23 November 2006.