

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 173

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

Regarding the Joint Banking and Finance Sector Investigation team mentioned in QoN 54 from May Estimates:

- (a) Provide a list indicating: (i) which organisations (both government and non-government) are represented on the Investigation team; and (ii) the nature of their involvement.
- (b) What activities has the team undertaken in the past year? Does the team undertake public information campaigns? How many matters have been referred to the Team for investigation and: (i) how many of those were investigated; and (ii) for those that were not investigated, why not?
- (c) For investigations that the Team has undertaken: (i) how many have resulted in arrests; (ii) how many persons have been arrested; (iii) how many of the persons arrested have been brought to trial; and (iv) how many of the persons arrested and brought to trial have been: convicted, acquitted and the subject of a mistrial.
- (d) For all convictions arising out of (c)(iv), provide a list of the range of offences for which persons were convicted, and the range of penalties imposed.

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

At 31 October 2006:

- (a)
 - (i) The Joint Banking and Financial Sector Investigation Team (JBFSIT) consisted of 6.1 persons who were seconded to the Australian High Tech Crime Centre (AHTCC) from the Australian Federal Police, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, National Australia Bank and Northern Territory Police Service.
 - (ii) the JBFSIT is primarily tasked with undertaking and coordinating investigations and intelligence holdings relating to Internet banking fraud. However the JBFSIT does proactively undertake investigations.
- (b) The JBFSIT focuses on Internet banking fraud involving the unauthorised access to Internet banking services by use of stolen logon information captured through phishing (acquiring personal details) or malicious software (including spyware) and associated criminal activity. Additionally, the JBFSIT undertakes and coordinates proactive public education campaigns on matters relating to Internet banking fraud. Investigation referrals are not made to the JBFSIT.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
- (c)
 - (i) 3. Numerous other matters were referred to the relevant State or Territory police service.
 - (ii) 3. Outcomes of referrals to the relevant State or Territory police service is a matter for that service.
 - (iii) Each investigation undertaken by the JBFSIT is continuing through the legal process.

(iv) As all matters are either the subject of investigation or before the court, no court proceeding have been finalised.

(d) Refer to answer (c) (iv).