

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 83

Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

In relation to the surveillance of ethnic communities:

- a) can you provide details of funds allocated to investigations into the activities of Australians abroad (eg the investigations that have taken place into the activities of Australians in Somalia) for the last financial year
- b) can you identify how spending priorities are established for these sorts of investigations, given their potential cost
- c) how are expenditure priorities determined in relation to investigations into particular Australian communities (e.g. Tamil Australians, Somali Australians, Kurdish Australians), and
- d) can you outline the public benefits of such investigations?

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

- a) No. The AFP does not have funds specifically allocated to investigations into the activities of Australians abroad.
- b) The AFP prioritises and evaluates all matters for investigation in accordance with its Case Categorisation and Prioritisation Model (CCPM). The CCPM enables the consideration of various issues which lead to the acceptance, prioritisation, rejection, termination, finalisation and resourcing of operational matters.
- c) The CCPM assesses the:
 - incident type and the impact on Australian society;
 - importance of the matter to both the client and the AFP;
 - resources required by the AFP to undertake the matter.

The AFP does not allocate funding to communities. Funding is allocated in accordance with the investigation of specific crime types.

- d) As outlined in the answer to part c), the CCPM provides for assessment of the impact of the incident and its importance to Australian society.