

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 84**

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

Many AFP programs are now required to be funded through the AFP's existing budget, rather than additional Commonwealth funds being provided. Part of this is the establishment of an Office of National Security, incorporated within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and headed by a National Security Adviser. This has been partially funded by the AFP, drawing funding from its existing budget.

- a) Has the AFP's operating budget been increased to recognise the extra pressure caused by a funding re-allocation?
- b) How will this affect AFP operations and programs?
- c) Where will the funding be pulled from to accommodate the re-allocation of resources?
- d) Will this mean less officers working on cases?
- e) How are these additional requirements being reconciled with the need to provide an efficiency dividend?
- f) Has the AFP experienced cuts in funding or manpower for major criminal investigations into serious and organised crime or terrorism in Australia?
- g) If so, what effect would these cuts have on those investigations?

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

The Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement 2007-08 incorporated the following measure 'Office of National Security Establishment' with a reduction to the AFP appropriation of;

- \$48,000 in 2007-08;
- \$69,000 in 2008-09;
- \$103,000 in 2009-10; and
- \$104,000 in 2010-11.

It should be noted the total revenue from government for the AFP in 2008-09, as published in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2008-09, is \$1,009.35m. The reduction in revenue associated with the establishment of the Office of National Security is less than 0.01% of AFP revenue.

This reduction in funding is being managed in the broader context of the AFP budget with no specific reduction in any activities being directly attributable to this measure.