

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 86

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

There have been many reports of cuts and funding re-allocations to the Air Security Officer Network Program (air marshals). The 2008/09 budget indicated that the program would be funded to \$8.4 million under forward estimates; that is, funding previously allocated to the program.

- a) Is the \$8.4 million available under forward estimates adequate funding to sustain the program in its present form?
- b) Has the program experienced any reduction in funding in the past 12 months? If so, please provide details, e.g. figures, how many staff that equates to, etc.
- c) Is the AFP forecasting or preparing for cuts in funding or manpower for air marshals in the next 12 months?
- d) If there have been reductions, how have they impacted your ability to perform the role as required?

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

- a) The total funding for the Air Security Officer program is \$26.9m. \$18.5m was originally funded in the 2002-03 budget and an additional \$8.4m in the 2008-09 budget, as a continuation of a previously funded lapsing program from 2004-05. This funding is adequate to sustain the program in its present form.
- b) There has been no reduction in funding in the past twelve months.
- c) No.
- d) Refer b).