

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 19

Senator Pratt asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator PRATT: I have some further aviation questions. I would like to know how much money the federal government has invested in policing at Australian airports in recent budgets.

Mr Drennan: The budget for the current financial year for aviation is \$122.197 million.

Senator PRATT: So that is for the AFP's part of the responsibilities? Is that correct?

Mr Drennan: That is for the AFP's aviation portfolio, which relates to policing at airports.

Senator PRATT: Does that capture everything that is in the all-in model for aviation policing and security? It is my understanding that it would not necessarily do that.

Mr Drennan: Yes, it does.

Senator PRATT: What is the investment over, say, the next four years? I understand there was an investment of \$200 million in aviation security measures, but I also understand that there is \$760 million over the four years. I do not know if they are separate and what they include.

Mr Drennan: It is probably best if we detail that to you on notice. The reason I say that is that in the forward estimates there is a range of leasing costs and there is a range of capital which has been provided to the AFP for us to establish a purpose-built premises at each of the airports where we have offices located around the country. The \$122.197 relates to the AFP's operations at airports as is, and in the forward estimates there is additional funding for future lease costs and also for capital to fit out buildings as they come online.

Senator PRATT: What is the budget for Project MACER at our airports?

Mr Drennan: The costing to implement Project MACER is absorbed within the aviation function budget. It is incorporated within that \$122.197 million.

Senator PRATT: As I understand it, that is where the Commonwealth is assuming responsibility for staffing over the next three to five years. Is that right?

Mr Drennan: Yes. The Commonwealth had responsibility for policing at the airports but it was a hybrid policing model, as I explained earlier on. The future for model core policing will be an all-in, sworn model. All police officers doing policing at the airports will be sworn members of the AFP.

Senator PRATT: The 2010-11 budget for the forward estimates is the \$760 million I am referring to. Correct?

Mr Drennan: I cannot tell you if that is correct exactly. It incorporates a considerable amount of lease costs for premises in the future and also capital expenditure in the future. So it is roughly that but I really would need to get the exact details to give you a precise answer.

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

1. AFP Core Aviation Funding (post Beale review)

In response to the Federal Audit of Police Capabilities (the Beale Review) Government endorsed the 2010-11 budget measure *Border Security-Unified Policing Model-continuation*. This provided for the 'All in model' with funding of \$760 million over the forward estimates (excluding capital, leasing and depreciation). In 2011-12 the funding for aviation security is \$189 million. The AFP has deployed \$122 million of these funds directly to Aviation with the balance going to close operational support including forensics and intelligence services, depreciation, protection services, corporate support and property operating expenses to enable to deliver on this output.

2. 2010-11 Additional Investment in Aviation

In 2010-11 the Government announced a whole-of-government measure *Border Security-strengthening passenger and air cargo security* of \$199.2 million over five years. This measure provided the AFP with new funding in addition to the core funding above for:

- a. AFP presence at airports of \$12.3 million in 2010-11 only
- b. Firearms and Explosive Detector Dogs capability funding of \$17.8 million across four years commencing in 2010-11. The 2011-12 resourcing is \$3.9 million.