

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 76**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

In relation to Cocos Keeling Island boat arrivals:

1. How many illegal boat arrival interceptions has the AFP been involved in from Cocos Keeling Island over the past three years?
2. How many AFP officers are currently stationed on Cocos and how has this changed over the past three years, and if the change has occurred more recently, how has this changed over the past 6 months?
3. What resources does the AFP have on Cocos Keeling Island?
4. Are there any plans to deploy further officers in the near future? If yes, how many?

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

1. There have been 65 SIEV arrivals in the last three years, as at 30 October 2012. The AFP has had some involvement in all of them.

2012 – 63 SIEV arrivals

2011 – 1 SIEV arrival

2010 – 1 SIEV arrival

2. There are currently six AFP members on Cocos Keeling Island (CKI). Historically, the AFP team on island consisted of two sworn general duties police officers and two locally engaged special members. However, on 15 June 2012, an additional two sworn AFP members were temporarily deployed to CKI to provide additional assistance for potential IMAs.
3. The AFP's maritime response capability on CKI includes an 8.3 metre Gemini Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), powered by twin 250 horsepower Mercury outboards. The AFP has recently commissioned the construction of an additional 8.5 metre RHIB due to be delivered, along with a trailer, to CKI on 23 December 2012. In addition, there are three motor vehicles which, along with the Police Station, are owned and run by the Department of Regional Australia.
4. The AFP intends to maintain the current staffing level of six members through the monsoon season into early 2013. The operating environment on CKI is constantly assessed and staffed according to requirements.