

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0591) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked: Implementation of Hawke-Williams report: What is the current status of negotiations with police in each state?

Answer:

The department is finalising negotiations, or has implemented, tripartite Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and each state jurisdiction.

Australian Federal Police

The department and the AFP signed an MOU on collaborative working arrangements on 3 July 2012. An annexure to this MOU for the provision of policing services on Christmas Island is currently being reviewed by AFP.

Tasmania Police

Police services were provided by Tasmanian Police from 1 September 2011 when the Pontville Immigration Detention Centre opened. An MOU was signed on 6 February 2012 with the Tasmanian Police and AFP to formalise these arrangements. The arrangement ceased with the closure of the Centre at the end of February 2012. Further arrangements will be put in place as required.

Northern Territory Police

An MOU with the NT Police and AFP was signed on 12 March 2012.

Victoria Police

As at 15 October 2012, negotiations between the department, Vic Police and AFP are continuing. The department is reviewing the current draft of the MOU prior to providing it to Vic Police for review.

Western Australia Police

As at 15 October 2012, negotiations between the department, WA Police and AFP are continuing. The department is reviewing the current draft of the MOU prior to providing it to WA Police for review.

South Australia Police

As at 15 October 2012, an MOU is being negotiated between the South Australian government and the department. The MOU will include annexures that cover health, education and police services. The police services annexure is currently being developed by the department for review by SA Police and the AFP.

Queensland Police Service

As at 15 October 2012, negotiations between the department, Queensland Police Service (QPS) and AFP are continuing. Queensland's anti-corruption legislation affects the provisions for payments under an MOU, hence delays in finalising an agreement. The department is considering a number of options, in collaboration with QPS, to progress an agreement.

New South Wales Police

As at 15 October 2012, the department has been advised that NSW Police would prefer an MOU that included corrections services, emergency services and police service. The NSW Crown Solicitor's Office has developed a draft which is currently being reviewed by NSW Police. Negotiations between the department, AFP and NSW Police will continue once a draft has been provided by NSW Police for consideration.