

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Australian Crime Commission Annual Report 2012-13

Senator Furner asked the following question at the hearing on 5 March 2014:

Senator FURNER: And just lastly on the Task Force Attero: there have been 1,211 charges. Is it possible to identify how many convictions have been made out of those 1,211 charges?

Mr Jevtovic: I would not be able to do that. It goes to the earlier question from Senator Parry around the ability to monitor the whole cycle of our contribution of intelligence. That is not to say it is impossible for us to do. If I take that on notice I could come back to you on that question.

Senator FURNER: Sure.

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

Australian Crime Commission

Convictions data was not collected during the course of the Attero National Task Force, nor is it collected routinely during other such task force arrangements (refer explanation below). To do so would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Attero National Task Force report and arrest statistics included in the ACC Annual Report 2012–13 were compiled from data stored on jurisdictional police databases and reported to the Attero National Task Force Secretariat by Task Force agencies.

These databases are designed primarily for operational policing purposes. On receipt of this question, the ACC consulted police jurisdictions in an effort to ascertain data; however, conviction figures were not able to be extracted for a number of reasons, with the exception of one police jurisdiction. The ACC is reliant on the advice of partner agencies as to the initiation and progress of resulting prosecution action. In general, partner agencies initiate prosecutions, not the ACC.

When considering convictions which flow from arrest or report figures, there are a number of variables which need to be considered. These include the upgrading or downgrading of charges, the withdrawal of charges, plea bargains entered into, acquittals and convictions recorded.

The Attero National Task Force has provided unprecedented unique and distinct benefits in presenting a united front to a serious and organised crime threat through a collegiate approach. The question of convictions recorded within the Attero National Task Force will be considered as part of the Task Force's final evaluation.