

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 08 June 2018

HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(HOT/003) – Referral processes for Organ Transplant Tourism

Asked:

Senator MOORE: How would you actually investigate the first claim? How would you actually find out? Would someone pass on, 'We think so and so is planning to go overseas next month for an organ transplant'—like a dob-in call?

Ms Pearce: From what I understand—and I can take part of this on notice to check the details—there would need to be a referral to the Australian Federal Police about the offence. For example, in the fact sheet for medical professionals that our colleagues from the Department of Health mentioned, there is a section at the back that says, 'If you have concerns that somebody may be involved in this process there is a number to contact the AFP.'

Answer:

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) may receive information about suspected organ trafficking and other exploitative practices from a variety of sources, including non-government organisations, other law enforcement officials, immigration and labour authorities, unions and other individuals and organisations.

When a matter is referred to the AFP it is evaluated for possible investigation. If the matter is accepted the investigation commences. If an investigation is commenced the specific investigative process would depend on the context and information available. The AFP conducts enquiries that seek to obtain evidence to support an allegation made. In the event sufficient evidence is obtained, the AFP may then consider a prosecution, in consultation with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online via <https://www.crimestoppers.com.au/> if they have any information about people involved in organ trafficking.