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PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hearing on Australian Federal Police annual report 2015-2016

Senator Singh asked at the hearing on 14 June 2017 for detailed information about the use of recently announced \$321.4M budget funds at the Majura Forensic Facility.

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

The \$321.4M funding will be directed toward a number of areas within the AFP.

One area that the new funding will be directed to is Forensics. In this instance, the funding creates 93 additional positions, spread across the disciplines as outlined below.

Forensic staffing under the New Policy Initiative	Total
Biometrics	6
Crime Scenes	19
Criminalistics	8
Digital Forensics	34
Firearms Identification & Armoury	2
Forensics & Technical Intelligence	10
Imaging & Geomatics	5
Operational Coordination & Capability	9
Total	93

Of the 93 additional personnel, 48 will be based at the Majura facility and 45 will be spread across the various regional offices.

\$8.971M of direct capital is for Forensics capabilities over the next four years. This will fund purchase of software and hardware, as well as specific kit items for new members.

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Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

Have you made any [Proceeds of Crime Act 2002] bids in the financial year we are referring to? [2015-2016 Financial Year]

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

- Yes.

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Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

I would like to know if you were successful in any of your [Proceeds of Crime Act 2002] bids in this financial year. [2015-2016 financial year.]

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

The AFP was successful in the following Confiscated Assets Account (Proceeds of Crime) bids in 2015-16, two of which funding commenced in the 2016-17 year:

Successful CAA bid in 2015-16	Appropriation Type	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
South Australia National Anti-Gangs Strike Team	Departmental	\$1.177	\$1.937m		
	Capital	\$0.076m	\$0.063m		
	Administered				
	Total	\$1.253m	\$2.000m		
Fraud and Anti-Corruption Centre – Enhanced Investigative Capabilities	Departmental		\$4.443m	\$4.819m	\$4.847m
	Capital		\$0.473m	\$0.118m	
	Administered				
	Total		\$4.916m	\$4.937m	\$4.847m
Additional Crime Prevention Activities (Big Data)	Departmental		\$0.105m	\$0.403m	
	Capital			\$1.100m	
	Administered				
	Total		\$0.105m	\$1.503m	
	Annual Total	\$1.253m	\$7.021m	\$6.440m	\$4.847m

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Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

You give there one example of human trafficking. In the scheme of things, how many more examples like that would you have for this annual report year [2015-2016]?

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

The AFP received 169 referrals in relation to human trafficking and slavery allegations in 2015-16. The following significant AFP Operations were included in the "Eighth report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery: 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016".

Operation AQUEOUS

On 19 May 2016, the offender was sentenced to a total of 22 years' imprisonment with a non-parole period of 15½ years, having pleaded guilty to 38 charges involving child trafficking, incest, indecent acts and child pornography offences.

The offender fathered twin daughters born via an overseas surrogate and brought them to Australia with the intention of committing sexual acts on them. He sexually abused them and produced video recordings and images of those assaults for the purpose of making it available to others online.

He was convicted of trafficking in children for bringing the children to Australia for these purposes. He was also convicted of committing acts of incest and indecent acts against his daughters on 40 occasions in 2014 when they were aged 1-8 months, and producing video recordings and photographs of those assaults, which was child pornography material, for the purpose of making that material available to others online (s 474.20(1) Criminal Code). The offender was also convicted of other child pornography and sexual abuse offences, some of which involved two of his nieces.

The offender was sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment reflecting the seriousness of the offending and the importance of deterrence, protection of the community, denunciation and punishment. The longest individual sentence of 8 years' imprisonment was imposed for each of the child trafficking offences.

Operation ARC

In August 2015, the AFP commenced an investigation into 23 foreign nationals believed to be working in forced labour conditions domestically. During the investigation a further 35 foreign nationals were identified.

On 8 February 2017, Yu-Hao HUANG and Bo-Syun CHEN pleaded guilty to one count each of causing a person to enter into or remain in servitude contrary to section 270.5(1) of the *Criminal Code 1995 (Cth)*. The two men were sentenced, respectively, to three years imprisonment to be released on recognizance after having served 548 days (548 days pre-sentence custody declared as time already served under the sentence), and two years and six months imprisonment to be released on recognizance after having served 541 days (541 days pre-sentence custody declared as time already served under the sentence). Both have served the minimum sentences and were detained by the Australian Border Force for removal from Australia.

On 16 February 2017, W.CHEN entered guilty pleas to the offence of supporting a criminal organisation contrary to section 390.4(1) Criminal Code (Cth) and dealing in proceeds of crime worth \$50,000 or more contrary to section 400.5(1) Criminal Code (Cth). W.CHEN was sentenced to 2 years to serve 519 days, the duration of his pre-sentence custody and 3 years, 3 months to serve 519 days.

On 17 February 2017, S.HUANG entered guilty pleas to dealing in proceeds of crime, sections 400.4(2) and 400.4(3) Criminal Code (Cth) and was sentenced at this time. S.HUANG was sentenced to 18 months to serve 436 days, the duration of his pre-sentence custody; and 2 years 6 months, to serve 436 days.

Operation CUPOLA

In September 2015, the AFP commenced an investigation into the alleged, systematic, long-term exploitation of a foreign national brought to Melbourne in 2007 to perform domestic labour.

At the time of referral it was alleged the exploitation had been happening for nearly eight years. The matter is currently before the Court.

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Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

... let's just look at this Operation Kitrino. Obviously that has resulted in a conviction. What about the victims out of this story?

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

The victims identified during Operation Kitrino were provided support under the Australian Government's Support For Trafficked People Program (STPP). The last of these victims was exited from the STPP in October 2016.

All the victims have now returned voluntarily to their country of origin.

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Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

Can you advise us or provide an update on how many counterterrorism investigations have been finalised since 2015-16—in this current financial year.

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

11 investigations were finalised in the 2016-2017 financial year.

Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

How many people have been charged in the current financial year with terror offences? And could I have a state breakdown as well.

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

17 people have been charged with CT offences in the 2016-2017 financial year.

9 people have been charged in NSW; 5 in VIC; 1 in ACT and 2 in SA.

Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 14 June 2017:

How many of these people—and this is the newsworthiness bit that has been in the public discussion of late—were on parole or previously known to police?

CLARIFICATION:

How many of the people charged in the current financial year with terror offences were on parole, or have previously been convicted of Commonwealth offences?

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

Of the people charged in the current financial year with terror offences, none were on parole, none had previously been convicted of Commonwealth offences, and one individual was on remand for unrelated matters at the time that charges were laid.