



Submission No 80

Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

Name: Australian Federal Police – Answers to Questions on Notice

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

The Committee has submitted the below question on notice, following the AFP's appearance before the Committee on 22 May 2013:

On page 10 of AusAID's submission (Sub. 22) it is stated that 'around \$30 million of Official Development Assistance is directly appropriated to the AFP for its programs in Timor-Leste. On page 7 of your submission you provide information about the Timor-Leste Police Development Program funding which indicates a total of \$22 million.

Would you explain the discrepancy of \$8 million—are there other programs in Timor-Leste that you fund? If yes, what are they?

The Answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

The figure (\$30m) referred to by AusAID for 2012-13 is the AFP's estimated total reportable ODA expenditure. This includes Timor-Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP) and UN Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

The \$22m in the AFP submission to the Committee represents the direct mission appropriation for TLPDP for 2012-13.

A breakdown of all expenditure and ODA in Timor-Leste is provided below:

Expenditure Type	TLPDP (\$m)	UNMIT (\$m)	Total ODA appropriated for AFP programs in Timor-Leste
Mission Specific	19.0	3.4	22.4
IDG Base Funding	8.2	-	8.2
TOTAL	27.2	3.4	30.6

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

The Committee has submitted the below question on notice, following the AFP's appearance before the Committee on 22 May 2013:

You advise on pages 12 to 13 of your submission that the AFP opened its liaison post in Dili in January 2002 but closed it in December 2011. Liaison responsibility was transferred to the Singapore Post.

- How often does the Senior Liaison Officer visit Timor-Leste?
- Should transnational crime activity increase in Timor-Leste, how quickly could the Dili Post be opened—what is the trigger point?

The Answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

1. The Singapore Senior Liaison Officer aims to conduct routine liaison visits to Timor-Leste two to three times per year, subject to AFP organisational priorities. The visit schedule is flexible, depending on operational priorities in Timor-Leste and the other countries of responsibility for Singapore Post.
2. The AFP remains able to flexibly deploy resources at short notice to Timor-Leste should operational circumstances require. This may include deploying the Singapore Senior Liaison Officer or other AFP resources in response to critical incidents or investigations. Subject to the nature of any request, this may require an invitation from the Timor-Leste Government due to a range of issues including respect for foreign sovereignty and diplomatic requirements.

Any decision to re-open the Dili Post on a medium to long term basis would need to be carefully evaluated in the context of the AFP international engagement strategy, operational priorities, available resources and the situational developments that may arise.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

The Committee has submitted the below question on notice, following the AFP's appearance before the Committee on 22 May 2013:

You advise on page 10 of your submission that the TLPDP has provided significant amounts of equipment and enabling tools such as IT equipment, motorbikes and hand-held radios to improve the PNTL's ability to respond professionally to crime and emergencies.

- Would you provide more information?
- Is the provision of equipment ongoing?
- How much more equipment is needed for an effective police force?

The Answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

The AFP has made a number of equipment donations including:

- 224 VHF hand held radios;
- Equipment to community safe houses in Dili and Oecussi District;
- Office equipment to remote District stations;
- An operations command vehicle; and
- IT support in the form of computers, printers and cabling.
- Donation of 60 Motorcycles, 4 four-wheel-drive vehicles, speed indicator trailers and electronic message trailers.
- Refurbishment of communication facilities complete with modern communication equipment.

In order to continue to improve PNTL capability there is a requirement for ongoing training, governance, infrastructure development and supply of equipment. Provision of equipment has been specifically assessed in the key areas TLPDP provide capacity development in, which includes operations, investigations, leadership and management, and gender equality.

The financial management of PNTL is still very immature and without provision of equipment such as enabling tools, other points of influence

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

would have significantly limited success. It is therefore likely there will be an ongoing requirement to assist with provision of specific equipment into the future, which will continue to be assessed on a needs basis and weighed against the longevity, impact and serviceability of the supplied equipment when considering the Timorese context.

However, such equipment will continue to be limited to aspects of the TLPDP capacity development key points of focus. Whilst PNTL is a functioning police organisation, there is still significant requirement for capacity development and the organisation has significant and broad equipment shortfalls considered standard requirements for general policing functions. For this reason, TLPDP will continue to focus on those areas of PNTL the program is directly involved in developing and in support of agreed initiatives.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

The Committee has submitted the below question on notice, following the AFP's appearance before the Committee on 22 May 2013:

In Timor-Leste the main centralised state justice institutions, [the PNTL] and the courts are also almost entirely absent from rural areas and functioning at only limited capacity in Dili and other urban centres.

- As far as the PNTL is concerned, is this comment justified?
- Are there programs which support and encourage the PNTL to engage with rural communities?

The Answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

As at May 2013, PNTL consisted of 3362 members with approximately 56 per cent being deployed to areas outside the capital of Dili. However, this is a country of widely dispersed small villages which requires that police are centralised in locations providing broad access to the community. This also requires that police regularly conduct community policing patrols to the more remote areas. This broad community access is on occasions hampered by the weather and logistical constraints within the PNTL.

The smooth transition following the withdrawal of the United Nations Integrated Mission in East Timor (UNMIT) in December 2012 and full resumption of responsibilities by PNTL is testimony to their ability to maintain law and order across the entire nation.

PNTL is a relatively young organisation, commencing operation in 2002. Since that time, AFP's Timor Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP) (and other donor agencies) has assisted in the development of the PNTL. The TLPDP has observed significant improvement across several areas of the PNTL, however, the PNTL self-acknowledge that further improvement is achievable.

The TLPDP is focusing on seven priority outcomes for the 2010-2014 program: (i) the Police Training Centre; (ii) PNTL supervision and management; (iii) PNTL Governance; (iv) PNTL Investigations capability; (v) improved PNTL operational capacity; (vi) gender equality; and (vii) provision of sufficient and appropriate training, systems development, infrastructure and enabling tools to support capacity development of the PNTL.

Since 2011, 74 per cent of the senior executive of the PNTL were or are being trained in the 12-month Diploma of Executive Police Management (DipEPM). Each of the 13 regional districts of Timor-Leste are represented on these training programs.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

Assessments conducted by TLPDP indicate the DipEPM participants are implementing course elements such as: section audits, improving the use of resources and accountability into district commands; better personnel file management; better use of formal procedures and laws; improved administrative systems within District Commands; conduct of formal meetings with set agendas, minutes and action items; and the drafting of guidelines to decentralise PNTL budgets from Finance in Dili to District/Unit Commanders.

Since 2011, 170 members of the PNTL have undertaken training in Investigations (levels 1, 2 and 3).

The Timor-Leste Prosecutor General has commented the quality of files presented to the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) from PNTL has improved, as has the relationship between the two organisations. OPG staff have observed, and the TLPDP verified through district visits, that the PNTL investigators are now more proactive in their approach to investigations, actively seeking delegation rather than waiting for OPG guidance.

Assessments conducted by TLPDP (2013) indicate delivery of training packages in Crime Scene Investigations and Certificate III in Train the Trainer has resulted in a marked improvement of investigations and case file management across the districts assessed to date. There has been a 36 per cent increase in the baseline established in 2011.

The aims and objectives of the TLPDP are non-regionalised and are designed to be equally effective in both urban and rural areas. TLPDP is aware that there are a significant number of other donor agencies working with PNTL, most notably the United National Development Program, Asia Foundation and the New Zealand Police Community Policing Program. That the principles of these programs do not distinguish between policing in urban or rural environments, however it is understood that the New Zealand Police program is heavily weighted towards interaction with the community.