



Submission No 47

Inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION

Organisation: Australian Federal Police

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Question from Ms Gai Brodtmann MP for AFP witnesses following the 17 February 2012 hearing:

Locally Engaged Staff (LES) are taking on a more substantive role according to your submission [page 5] including as investigative assistants and linguists/interpreters:

1. What proportion of your 87 LES carry out these potentially more sensitive roles?
2. How do you handle security vetting?
3. Do you envisage this number increasing significantly?

The AFP's responses to Ms Brodtmann's questions follow:

1. As at 5 March 2012: 36 LES undertake roles as investigative assistants, linguists or interpreters/translators. This equates to approximately 41% of total LES. This figure may vary from time to time depending on the skills of future appointees to LES roles.
2. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are responsible for the recruitment and administrative management of AFP locally engaged staff (LES) as part of the Service Level Agreement fees paid by the AFP.

A LES, who is a foreign national, after successfully passing local security checks is granted a DFAT position of trust allowing the employee to have access to unclassified material in the mission.

If the LES is an Australian national, then DFAT are able to grant them a security classification of Secret after successful completion of security checks, allowing them access to AFP and DFAT systems at post.

3. It is not envisaged that the number of LES will increase significantly in the future.