

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRAC

**Question No. AE16/024**

**Senator MacDonald asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:**

CHAIR: Do we have any permanent operatives in Vanuatu from your agency?

Mr Jevtovic: Not from my agency, no. This might be something to check, but we may have an AFP presence in Vanuatu. I have not had to put my mind to that for a number of years. We do have Australian embassy representation there. As to any operatives, law enforcement officers, I could not confirm that now.

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

AUSTRAC does not have any permanent operatives in Vanuatu.

AUSTRAC's international capability supports its strategic objectives to fulfil Australia's international obligations to combat and address matters of concern relating to money laundering, financing of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction proliferation financing. This strategy involves selective offshore placement of staff, and a range of partnerships - such as leveraging from where domestic partners such as AFP have a presence in country, and via international relationships such as those created by the Egmont Group for Financial intelligence Units to lawfully exchange information. Both Australia and Vanuatu are members of the Egmont Group.