

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program:** Australian Federal Police

**Question No. AE17/028**

**Senator Hinch asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:**

Senator HINCH: We found—I think I got the figures from you—that, in 2015, 800 people on the so-called secret registers went overseas. Three hundred and forty or 350 of them went to South-East Asia—to Myanmar, Cambodia and the Philippines. These are on child-rape holidays. They are not there for the sun.

Mr Gaughan: Obviously, that is a worst-case scenario. We are working with those countries to deal it with. The Indonesians, for instance, turn people back. We are working with some others to have similar circumstances in place.

Mr Colvin: If someone is on the national register—and, as you said, with tax you can put them onto an alert so we know when they present at the airport to travel to another country—the AFP will notify that country that somebody who is on our register is travelling. We are working very closely with our partners in the region to inform them and educate them about the risks that that poses to them. In many cases, Indonesia would be the best example. They are turning those people around and stopping them from travelling to their country.

The broader issue that you raised with the Foreign Minister and the Minister for Justice last year around stopping or passport cancellations does require a policy and, probably, a legislative amendment, and I know that the government is currently considering what those policy options are.

Senator HINCH: On notice, could you give me a written briefing on what you need or think we need, so I can push from this end?

Mr Colvin: Certainly.

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

The AFP is actively involved in the National Working Group on Child Sex Offenders, which comprises senior police and justice officials from the Commonwealth, the states and territories and New Zealand. The Working Group is exploring a range of emerging operational and legislative issues, including international travel by convicted Australian child sex offenders. The Working Group is chaired by the Attorney-General's Department and will report its findings and recommendations on this issue to the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council in 2017.