

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

**Program: Australian Federal Police**

**Question No. AE17/083**

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

Information provided to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee by the AFP in 2017:

1. states the number of full time equivalent staff in the PRS has gone from 72.3 in 2013-14 to 54.9 in 2016-17. Why has this been reduced?
2. indicates there is almost a million dollars less funding for the PRS in 2016-17 than there was just in in 2013-14. Why has this been reduced?

We understand that the PRS deals with complaints, investigations of misconduct and promoting a healthy AFP culture.

3. When the decision was made to reduce staffing and funding to the PRS, did the AFP take into account the issue of employee welfare?
4. Who made the decision to scale back the PRS? Was this from the Minister or from the AFP?
5. Is the funding from the PRS now being used to fund Safe Place?
6. Of the 13 staff lost from the PRS since 2015-16, how many (if any) have been allocated to the Safe Place unit or have worked for this unit?

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

1. The figure of 54.9 represents actual staff numbers for the Professional Standards business area of AFP (PRS) at the time of providing the original information to the committee. However PRS budgeted FTE is 65.67 for the 2016-17 financial year. Processes to fill all vacant positions are nearing finalisation. PRS have continuously sought improvements to its practices and processes, including a number of initiatives which improve the timeliness of matters, reduce stress on members, streamline procedures and therefore reduce resource requirements. There has also been a small realignment of responsibility with misconduct prevention and awareness training and staff being transferred to Learning and Development. This has enabled a small reduction in the budgeted FTE for PRS.
2. The AFP allocates budget according to organisation priorities.
3. PRS FTE has remained relatively stable over the last three financial years. Care is taken to support employee welfare in all circumstances. PRS also utilises AFP welfare and psychological support services to support members involved in PRS matters
4. Refer to question 2. The AFP determines budget allocation.
5. No.
6. No PRS members have been allocated or transferred to SafePlace.