

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 81

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

In this Budget \$8.6 million has been cut from the International Deployment Group (IDG):

- a) Can you confirm from which deployments the funds are being cut?
- b) Will it affect AFP deployed to Afghanistan?
- c) How many staff are currently in the IDG? Has this changed over the past 12 months?
- d) Can you provide a breakdown of how many AFP are in each country?
- e) Can you confirm the number of AFP officers currently stationed on Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling Island?
- f) Is that number constant or does it fluctuate depending on circumstance? If it fluctuates can you provide the number of AFP officers that were stationed on both islands for each month of this year?

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

- a) There will be a small reduction of 21 positions in the Australian based non-mission component of the International Deployment Group of the AFP. These reductions will be achieved through natural attrition of staff.
- b) No – this will not affect AFP deployments to Afghanistan or any other mission.
- c) Current IDG staffing numbers (at 11 June 2012) are 733 personnel with an additional 31 positions to be filled in the near future. Over the last 12 months this represents a reduction of 24 from 788 (at 13 June 2011).
- d) The below figures do not include Australian based IDG staff.

Location	Count
Afghanistan	28
Cyprus	15
East Timor	50
Timor Leste Police Development Program	33
Nauru	2
Papua New Guinea	17
Samoa	3
Solomon Islands	130
Sudan	10
Tonga	3
UN New York	1

There were 10 AFP members in the Vanuatu mission, however, these members were withdrawn on 10 May 2012.

e)

Cocos (Keeling) Islands:

4 sworn officers; 2 special constables.

Total: 6

Christmas Island:

Community policing component: 6 sworn officers; 3 special Constables; 1 support member.

Sub Total: 10

Public Order Management component: 1 Superintendent, 22 Public Order Management Specialists (16 Public Order Members, 6 Operational Response Members) 2 Intelligence, 1 Support member.

Sub Total: 26

Total: 36

f)

Cocos (Keeling) Islands: the usual staffing total is 4 members (2 sworn officers and 2 special constables). An additional 2 members arrived on 15/6/2012 to support existing resources.

Christmas Island: the number for the community policing component is constant. Numbers would only fluctuate if members are on leave or attending training and decisions are made regarding relief dependant on length of absence and operational requirements at that time.

The number for the Public Order Management component has remained constant for some time. It has only fluctuated for short periods during transition of staff.

AFP People Smuggling Strike Team officers also deploy to Christmas Island. These deployments are short term and the numbers fluctuate depending on the operational requirement at the time.

Christmas Island (as at 1st day of the month)

Jan – 45

Feb – 47

Mar – 51

Apr – 44

May – 47

Jun – 49

Cocos (Keeling) Islands (as at 1st day of the month)

Jan – 4

Feb – 4

Mar – 4

Apr – 4

May -4

Jun – 4