

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

Group: 3

Program: Other Agency

Question: BE14/056

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

1. How many Australian police officers under the responsibility of the AFP are in PNG?
2. What is the budget for this program?
3. Is this budget classified as ODA?
4. Is the budget from this from DFAT or the AFP budget?
5. What activities do the AFP officers undertake in PNG?
6. Where are these AFP officers stationed?

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

1. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) International Deployment Group currently has 73 members deployed under the Papua New Guinea-Australia Policing Partnership (PNG-APP)

The AFP International Network has a Senior Liaison Officer and a Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) Advisor deployed to PNG. A total of 75 Australian police officers under the responsibility of the AFP are in PNG.

2. The budget for all programs conducted by the AFP in Papua New Guinea for financial year 2013-14 is \$43.9m.
3. \$30.9m of the budget is classified as ODA.
4. AFP budget.
5. The AFP officers attached to PNG-APP are undertaking an advisory role only; that is they do not exercise any executive police powers and are not armed. They work alongside the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) officers to provide frontline supervision and leadership advice, as well as strengthening the operational capacity of the RPNGC. AFP officers are in AFP uniform and work as advisors in publicly visible roles with RPNGC officers to develop RPNGC's community policing capabilities including the specialised areas of sexual offence investigations, traffic and criminal investigations. At the Bomana Police Training College, AFP officers deliver recruit and leadership training in order for graduates to be better prepared for their roles post college, including preparation for advancement.

The focus of the PNG-APP is on coaching, mentoring and influencing the delivery of policing services across the RPNGC in accordance with the rule of law. Rule of law development is undertaken through engagement in respect of a host country's legal framework, law enforcement, judicial process and those who enforce judicial outcomes. The AFP focuses on

police development to support law enforcement while also assisting other government partners, such as the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose work supports rule of law development.

Representing Australia's law enforcement interests, the AFP International Network Senior Liaison Officer provides police to police assistance to the RPNGC which involves the sharing of information and intelligence in our joint efforts to combat, disrupt and dismantle transnational crime. Liaison focuses primarily on law enforcement agencies in PNG with an emphasis on building and sustaining regional linkages to combat transnational criminal networks operating in the region. Strong relations are sustained with key agencies including RPNGC, PNG Customs and the PNG Immigration and Citizenship.

The AFP TCU Advisor attached to the PNG Transnational Crime Unit works in collaboration with the RPNGC in an effort to enhance their capability to combat transnational crime.

6. AFP appointees attached to PNG-APP are located in Port Moresby (61) and Lae (12).

The AFP International Network Senior Liaison Officer is deployed to the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.