SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Federal Police

Question No. BE17-119

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked the following question on 02 June 2017:

When people think of human trafficking often they think of trafficking into the sex industry. Does this reflect the nature of trafficking in Australia today?
What resources have been directed to address these rising concerns?
What resources have been directed to improve communication between relevant agencies, including the fair work commission and other employment and industrial bodies noting the change in types of trafficked people?

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

Historically, the majority of suspected trafficked people identified by Australian authorities have been women from South-East Asia, who have experienced exploitation in the sex industry. However, in recent years we have found that the number of trafficked people exploited in other industries (including agriculture, construction, hospitality and domestic service) and in intimate relationships has been comparable to those subjected to exploitation in the sex industry.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has two dedicated Human Trafficking Teams, one in Sydney and one in Melbourne.

In AFP offices where there is no dedicated Human Trafficking Team, the AFP has the ability to utilise members within Crime Operations to assist.

The AFP Human Trafficking Investigations Course (HTIC) was first delivered in 2004. Since that time, members of the AFP, state and territory police and members from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection have completed the training.

The AFP is part of a comprehensive Whole of Government approach to combating human trafficking and is committed to working collaboratively with the community and other agencies to ensure the strategy is as effective as possible. This includes working collaboratively with the Fair Work Ombudsman and with industry bodies.