

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

Group: 3

Program Other Agency

Question No. SBE14/053

Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

Senator BILYK: As I understand it, and I am happy to be corrected if I am wrong, they have had one day of training in how to remove people from aeroplanes and deal with any of those risk factors. You had some sort of hybrid model previously, did you not?

Mr Colvin: Hybrid as in shared between Tasmania Police and AFP?

Senator BILYK: Yes.

Mr Colvin: We did, and we had that model at all of our airports. Over time, we transitioned that model to predominantly AFP, and at the point that we withdrew our resources from Hobart airport I believe there was one Tasmania Police officer seconded into our team.

Senator BILYK: How long was the training under that hybrid model?

Mr Colvin: I would have to take that on notice, because it was a very long time ago.

Senator BILYK: I understand it was six weeks, but I just want to be clear with my facts.

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

Under this model, six weeks of AFP aviation-specific training was delivered to police officers who were seconded to the AFP. Given the officers were being seconded from state and/or territory jurisdictions to work as part of the AFP, a significant proportion of this course was devoted to explaining the nature of the AFP as an organisation, understanding specific legislation applicable to the airport environs, AFP governance, compliance and administration mechanisms use of computerised systems, and the application of operational skills.

In support of the transition of policing services to Tasmania Police, the AFP conducted specialist aviation focused training with Tasmania Police, which included bomb appraisal training and canine capabilities. The AFP also provided a complete suite of documentation, including all relevant legislation, procedures and policies, as they applied to the AFP on the execution of State-based legislation. During the transitional period between budgetary announcement and operational closure, Tasmania Police were provided with familiarisation briefings which included procedural discussions.