

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**TREASURY**

**Australian Taxation Office**

(Additional Estimates 15 February 2006)

**Topic:** Treasurer's statement about drug barons and outcomes  
**AT85** **Hansard Page: E64**

Senator Sherry asked:

Were there any specific programs implemented by the tax office as a result of this call by the Treasurer back in May 2004? He is specifically referring to the tax authorities. Was anything put in place following this speech?

*Mr Monaghan—I am reluctant to be specific, because it might draw attention to particular work we are doing, but we do work very closely with federal and state law enforcement agencies where we can provide assistance. That covers a wide range of criminal activities.*

*Senator MURRAY—Which is why I focused on outcomes. I am not as interested in the methods, I am interested in knowing you have done the job, and I do not think you have been publicising it, if you have been doing the job.*

**Senator SHERRY**—Yes, I agree with Senator Murray. What you are doing in the minutia is interesting, but here we are in February 2006 and the Treasurer made a very strong statement in May 2004. We would like to know what the outcomes have been. That would be useful.

*Mr D'Ascenzo—We can consult with the other government agencies that are usually the leaders of our joint task forces and see what they feel is appropriate or what they are able to provide.*

Answer:

Regular meetings (Joint Management Committee meetings) have been held involving a number of agencies, such as the Victorian State Police, Australian Crime Commission and the Tax Office to address activities of this nature.

The Tax Office is only able to comment on results that fall within its authority. Tax Office audit action arising from this work has seen assessments and penalties of \$4.2 million issued.

The Tax Office has also responded to requests from authorised law enforcement agencies for taxation information under *section 3E* of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* in relation to this activity. Numbers and the primary nature of these are reported in the Commissioner's Annual Report. The outcomes of these disclosures however are not known to the Tax Office.