



ONA



File No. REL92/0025

10 November 2003

Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Senate Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

**Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Hearings 4 November 2003**

ONA : Question on Notice

At the Committee hearings on 4 November 2003, Senator Faulkner asked if ONA would advise when the Australian Federal Police determined to conduct an investigation into the possible leak of an ONA report. The timelines for ONA and AFP liaison on this matter are as follows –

- ONA advised ASIO of the Andrew Bolt article which claimed to have drawn on an ONA report on the day the article appeared in the *Herald Sun*, 23 June 2003. This action was consistent with the requirement on the reporting of security incidents contained in the Commonwealth Protective Security Manual (CPSM).
- After discussions with ASIO on 23 and 24 June and after completing preliminary audits including contacting DFAT about electronic dissemination, and notifying several agencies whose material may have been used in the ONA report referred to by Bolt (another requirement of the CPSM), ONA contacted the AFP on 27 June. A meeting with the AFP took place on 30 June.
- The Director-General, ONA wrote formally to the Commissioner, AFP on 4 July requesting that an evaluation be done to determine whether an investigation should be undertaken.
- During the following weeks ONA had a series of discussions and exchanges with the AFP about the distribution of the report and ONA's document management procedures. These included requests by the AFP for and provision by ONA of additional information on the



results of audits of the internal and external distribution of the report and information on procedures for electronic distribution.

- On 9 September the Director-General ONA wrote to the Commissioner, AFP noting that Senator McDonald had referred to the report at a Parliamentary Committee hearing, observing that the question had arisen whether Senator McDonald had had access to the report or information about its contents, and asking that the AFP take this further information into account in considering its response to ONA's earlier letter.
- The AFP's Director of National Investigations wrote to the Director-General, ONA on 11 September. The Director advised that the AFP had evaluated ONA's initial referral of 4 July and received the further referral of 9 September and that both matters were now active investigations.



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