

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 139

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:

Strike Team capability for the past 12 months;

- a) How many strike teams are there?
- b) Under what circumstances have they been deployed?
- c) How are they deployed?
- d) Where have they been deployed to?

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

- a) There is one People Smuggling Strike Team (PSST).
- b) The PSST undertake investigational activities on an ongoing basis in response to intelligence relating to potential people smuggling ventures or as the result of the identification of possible illegal immigrants.
- c) The PSST deploy on an as needs basis to prevent people smuggling ventures from departing their place of origin or to investigate the arrival of a vessel in Australia containing possible illegal immigrants. In addition to the PSST, additional resources are deployed to any given incident in accordance with the AFP's flexible teams model.
- d) Over the past 12 months members of the PSST have travelled throughout Australia and overseas in relation to on-going investigations and other people smuggling initiatives.