

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 140

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

Further to the reply to Question 283 from 31 October 2005:

- a) Have any further arrests been made since?
- b) Have there been any arrests associated with the Online Child Sex Exploitation Team (OCSET)?
- c) Are there any ongoing investigations in relation to this matter?
- d) Please provide the outputs of the OCSET.

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

- a) In addition to the five arrests outlined in Question 283, as at 1 March 2006 there have been an additional four arrests. This total of nine arrests has resulted in 35 charges before the courts.

A further 22 suspects have had child abuse or child pornography images located at their premises during the execution of search warrants and briefs of evidence are being prepared for prosecution. The most common offence utilised to date is S474.19 *Criminal Code Act 1995* "Use carriage service for child pornography material (access or transmit)".

- b) Eight of the nine arrests have been made directly by AFP OCSET staff whilst the remaining arrest was in relation to a Child Sex Tourism investigation where the offender was found to have also committed grooming and transmission of child pornography material offences.
- c) Yes, there are multiple ongoing investigations. These investigations are across a range of offences including grooming and procurement of children.
- d) Outputs include:
 - Nine arrests and 22 summons matters;
 - 111 Evidence packages involving overseas suspects have been forwarded to foreign law enforcement agencies; and
 - 535 Evidence packages of like offences committed prior to the introduction of the Commonwealth legislation have been triaged and forwarded to the State and Territory police for action in their jurisdictions.