

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 265

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

- (a) Does that Memorandum, give the AFP a role in the security vetting and clearance processes of DFAT staff and contractors, prior to their appointment; and
- (b) in regular reviews required thereafter?

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

- (a) Since the inception of the MOU only security clearances on contractors and non-ongoing DFAT staff (e.g. IT professionals and staff working in the passports office) have been conducted on a fee for service basis under the MOU described at Question No. 264. The AFP Criminal History Branch provides assistance to all government organisations including DFAT, through the provision of employment and security checks on a user pay basis.
- (b) In accordance with Part D of the *Commonwealth Protective Security Manual* (2005), reviews are conducted on all security clearances on their expiry, generally after 5 years. Again the AFP has only been utilised for reviewing the security clearances of non-ongoing DFAT staff and contractors under the terms of the MOU outlined above.