

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 69

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

Regarding the statement on page 53 of the annual report that 62 convictions have resulted against offenders from ACC activity:

- a) How many charges have been laid as a result of ACC activity?
- b) How many individual cases does this represent?
- c) Of the charges laid, provide a breakdown, indicating:
 - i) The number of charges that were dropped.
 - ii) The number of charges that resulted in a conviction.
 - iii) The number of charges that resulted in a not guilty verdict.
 - iv) The number of charges for which a nolle prosequi was entered.

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

a) 1665 charges were preferred during the period covered by the ACC Annual Report 2004-2005 (the reporting period).

b) 294 persons were charged during the reporting period.

c) ACC reporting systems are designed to record Court outcomes in respect of persons charged, rather than the results for charges preferred. Appendix C to the Annual Report details Court outcomes during the reporting period. Of the persons charged during the reporting period, 19 persons were the subject of finalised prosecutions during that period. The other Court outcomes identified in Appendix C represent prosecutions finalised during the reporting period for persons charged between 1 January 2003 (the date of establishment of the ACC) and 30 June 2004, and persons charged by the former National Crime Authority prior to 1 January 2003. Of the 19 persons whose charging and prosecution both occurred during the reporting period:

- i) Three persons had charges withdrawn
- ii) Sixteen persons were convicted of offences
- iii) No persons were acquitted
- iv) No persons were the subject of a nolle prosequi

It is noted that for the period 1 July 2005-28 February 2006 a further 50 prosecutions have been finalised, of which 25 relate to persons charged during the 2004-2005 financial year. In respect to those 25 persons, 24 were convicted and charges against one person were withdrawn.