SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 101

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:

In relation to counter-terrorism intelligence vacancies:

  a) how quickly are vacancies in CT Intelligence filled when vacancies arise;

  b) have there been examples where vacancies have occurred but not been filled;

  c) when these vacancies haven't been filled, how do the remaining CT investigators manage the increased workload;

  d) what other teams/taskforces/offices have had their funding cut in the last twelve months;

  e) what other programs have been affected by the efficiency dividends, and

  f) what kinds of investigations have these staff cuts impacted upon?

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

a) Counter Terrorism (CT) Intelligence vacancies are filled as soon as practicable with suitably qualified persons using the range of recruitment options available to the AFP. Vacancies are filled from other areas of the Intelligence portfolio in the event of a delay in filling the CT Intelligence vacancy.

b) CT Intelligence vacancies have always been filled unless funding for the position has been discontinued.

c) There are no instances where CT Intelligence positions have not been filled. AFP Intelligence has the flexibility to realign resources to support the Joint Counter Terrorism Teams in response to taskings from the National Manager Counter Terrorism.

d) and e)

  The AFP, as with all agencies, is subject to the efficiency dividends. Agencies have the flexibility to manage the impacts of the efficiency dividend across their whole range of responsibilities. The AFP has sought, wherever possible, to manage the impacts of the efficiency dividend through close management of discretionary expenditure and of key supplier relationships in order to minimise any impact on operational capability.

f) Not applicable – there has not been any reduction in staff within CT Intelligence.