

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRAC

**Question No. 23**

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

Of the 2,800 investigations during the 2007-08 financial year:

- a) how many of these investigations were conducted by law enforcement agencies and
- b) how many of these investigations were conducted by national security agencies?

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

In 2007-08 AUSTRAC information contributed to 2,698 operational matters (not 2,800 as stated at the hearing of 23 February 2009). The 2,698 operational matters comprise the following:

- (1) 965 law enforcement matters;
- (2) 1,224 social justice matters (for example, Centrelink and Child Support Agency fraud cases); and
- (3) 509 tax-related matters.

Further, in relation to categories (2) and (3), in 2007-08 AUSTRAC information contributed to ATO assessments of more than \$76.7 million and more than \$8.5 million of annualised savings for Centrelink.

Figures are based on the feedback AUSTRAC receives from partner agencies. It is likely there were further operational matters where AUSTRAC information was of assistance but where formal feedback has not been provided.

The 2,698 operational matters do not include statistics from Australian Intelligence Community agencies designated under the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006*. AUSTRAC is not in a position to report on operational matters related to national security which might involve AUSTRAC information.