

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 54**

**Senator Hutchins asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:**

Media reported that the Australian Federal Police had a confidential report that cocaine now represents 25% of drug seizures: Please provide some details of increases in detection of cocaine, amphetamines and stimulant type drugs.

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

Over a number of years, the Australian illicit drug environment has continued to evolve, driven by the changing user preferences and whole of government strategic responses to emerging trends. Changing drug preferences have seen a growing range of illicit drugs entering the Australian market and the various regulatory and policy responses instigated by Government have changed the nature of the illicit drug environment.

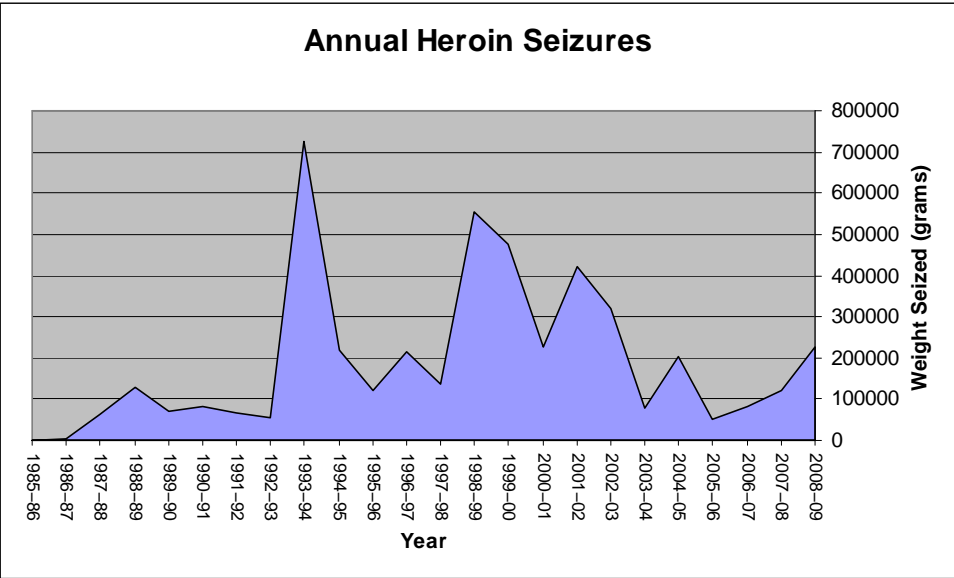
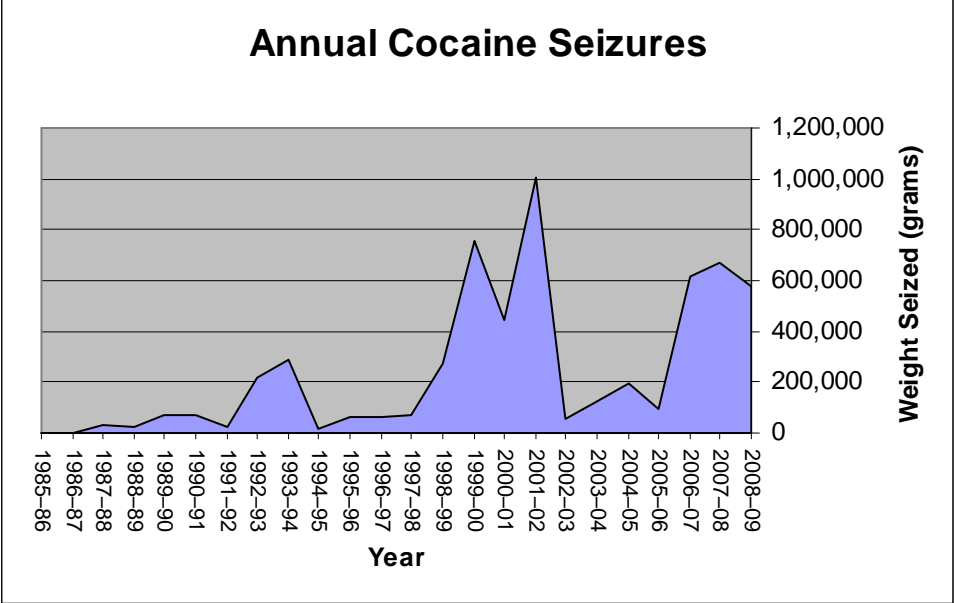
Despite the successes to date, Australia remains a target for illicit drugs. As a net importer of many forms of illicit drugs and precursors, Australian drug trends are influenced by changes in global drug cultivation, manufacture and trafficking. Although it is difficult to estimate the quantity of illicit drugs imported into Australia annually, high domestic prices coupled with strong demand continue to underpin the attractiveness of importing illicit drugs and precursors into Australia.

Australia's National Drug Strategy involves a balance between demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction, and includes a renewed emphasis on prevention. The national response to the drug problem is an integrated one, involving law enforcement, health, prevention, education and treatment services. From a law enforcement perspective, although the mandate is the reduction of supply of illicit drugs to the Australian community, the focus is very much on prevention and partnerships with colleagues nationally and internationally.

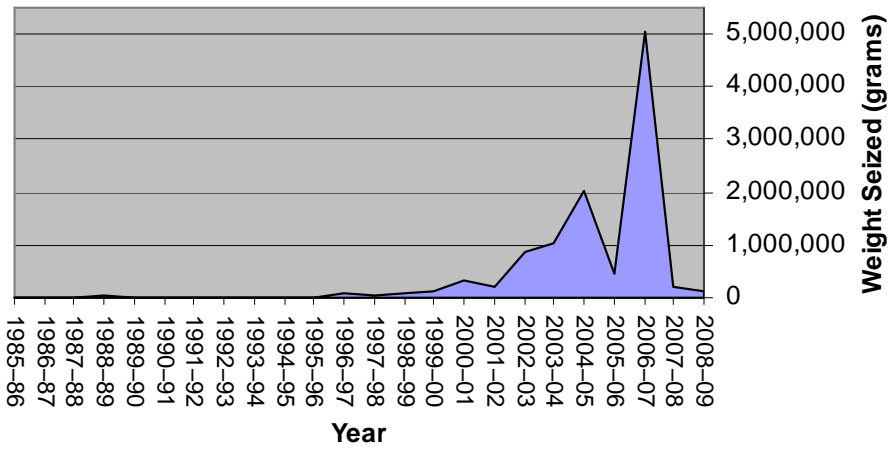
The AFP, in conjunction with its partners, closely monitor drug trends and ensure that appropriate remedial actions are implemented in line with the current threats posed. The following table represents drug seizures (in kilograms) over the last decade.

	Amphetamine type stimulants (ATS)	3, 4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	Cocaine	Heroin
1999-00	57	141	752	475
2000-01	140	342	446	226
2001-02	431	189	1006	419
2002-03	523	873	54	318
2003-04	161	1030	122	77
2004-05	163	2034	192	204
2005-06	106	437	94	49
2006-07	85	5054	616	79
2007-08	292	191	666	121
2008-09	325	108	573	224

These figures and more historical seizures are graphically represented in the following graphs:



### Annual MDMA Seizures



### Annual ATS seizures

