

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 62**

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

The Australian Crime Commission's Outlaw Motorcycle Gang National Intelligence Taskforce was disbanded by the Government in June 2008. Following the release of the Beale Report, the Government has announced that the AFP would be re-structured to create a specialised division investigating criminal syndicates such as Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs:

- a) Why has this division been set up?
- b) How many AFP members will be assigned to the division?
- c) How many will be investigators?
- d) What threat does the AFP believe outlaw motorcycle gangs pose to Australia?
- e) Is the AFP familiar with the tasks that the former ACC OMCG National Intelligence Taskforce will be undertaking?
- f) Will the AFP taskforce be investigating the same crimes and criminal syndicates the ACC used to under the OMCG NIT?

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

- a) The Prime Minister's inaugural National Security Statement, tabled in December 2008, recognised organised crime as a growing concern, costing Australia an estimated \$10-\$15 billion every year.

As a result of the Federal Audit of Police Capability (Beale Review) and the recent introduction of the Government Organised Crime Framework, the AFP Senior Leaders Group was of the strong view that drugs, fraud, money laundering and other elements of organised crime needed to be looked at holistically rather than in separate AFP streams of activity.

On 1 February 2010 the Border and International and Economic and Special Operations portfolios were replaced by two new portfolios, being Serious and Organised Crime and Crime Operations.

- b) At present the Serious and Organised Crime and Crime Operations portfolios have 746 personnel. Due to the dynamic nature of this work the number of members will fluctuate depending on the case load at any point in time.
- c) Of the 746 personnel, 603 sworn investigators are attached to the Serious and Organised Crime and Crime Operations portfolios.
- d) Serious organised crime groups with active member involvement, considerable resources, inter-jurisdictional connections, supporting industry infiltration, and sophisticated methods continue to pose a significant threat to Australia's national security. The AFP is aware that members of various OMCGs have been implicated in a wide range of domestic criminal

activities including drug manufacture and distribution, assault, murder, and theft. From an AFP perspective, it is expected that some members or associates of OMCGs will also continue to be involved in significant transnational criminal activities such as drug and precursor importation and money laundering.

- e) The AFP is aware of the activities of the former ACC's OMCG National Intelligence Task Force (NITF) through the receipt of related intelligence product and briefings provided to the ACC Board.
- f) While the AFP does not have a formal standing OMCG taskforce, there is ongoing operational activity against OMCG members. The AFP is actively engaged with the ACC and jurisdictional police with respect to OMCG members. The focus of this activity is directed towards the criminality within serious and organised crime. The AFP does not directly collect and collate information and intelligence against OMCGs but rather targets the criminality of OMCG members who attempt to break Commonwealth laws.