

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 12**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing of 22 February 2011:**

Are you aware of the recent article *NRL players 'caught' in internet sex ruse* (Sunday Mail Adelaide 13/02/11, p79) which says that the National Rugby League hired an Australian Federal Police officer to pose as an underage girl and flirt with football players on social networking websites?

1. Is it common practice for the AFP to have officers hired out by corporate organisations?

If so, please provide other examples.

2. How many officers were hired by the NRL to conduct these seminars?

3. What was the remuneration paid to the Australian Federal Police by the NRL?

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

1. The seminars delivered to the NRL are part of the AFP's wider online education initiatives such as the delivery of cyber safety and security presentations to students and other children and young people, and the ThinkUKnow program delivered to parents, carers and teachers.

The initiative with the NRL is an extension of the AFP's partnership with the NRL/Rugby League Player's Association (RLPA) Education & Welfare program. The seminars focus on giving players advice about privacy on social networking sites and protecting their personal and financial information.

The program was piloted when the NRL invited the AFP to give online safety seminars to each of the Under 20 Toyota Cup squads as part of the 2009 NRL Rookie Camps. Following positive feedback from players and clubs, the NRL invited the AFP to deliver the same presentation to every NRL team.

Other sports such as AFL, Swimming Australia, Tennis Australia, Hockey ACT and rugby union have approached the AFP about conducting similar programs.

2. No officers were hired for these presentations. Only one AFP member from the High Tech Crime Operations (HTCO) Crime Prevention Team delivered these presentations.

3. The AFP member presenting these seminars was not "hired" by the NRL and no remuneration was paid.