

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Program 1.2

Question No. 62

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:

Senator BARNETT—On human trafficking, \$9.2 million was used to prevent trafficking last financial year, the 2009-10 year. I am checking the funds for this financial year and if they have been expended. Does the government support the 'Human Trafficking: the Unfair Trade' initiative, Don't Trade Lives, which was launched yesterday by World Vision? I commend World Vision on the launch and those that were present, including Minister Brendan O'Connor. Nine point two million dollars was expended last year. Can you confirm how much the funds for this year are and what they will be expended on?

Mr Wilkins—We will need to take that on notice.

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

The Australian Government is committed to building strong partnerships with the non-profit sector and supports the work of organisations such as World Vision Australia in raising community awareness of people trafficking and slavery.

In 2008, the Australian Government established the annual National Roundtable on People Trafficking as a consultative mechanism between the Government and NGOs on trafficking issues. Since then, the Government has provided \$2.6 million in funding to support Australian NGOs in their efforts to combat people trafficking. This funding is used to provide vital outreach for trafficking victims and to conduct education and awareness initiatives on people trafficking. This funding is provided from the confiscated assets account under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*.

Under Australia's whole-of-government anti-people trafficking strategy, the four agencies within the Attorney-General's portfolio with responsibility for specific initiatives spent \$7.569 million in the financial year 2009-10. These agencies have been appropriated \$7.322 million in the financial year 2010-11 to continue these initiatives.

The figure of \$9.2 million for anti-trafficking activities in 2009-10 appeared in the US State Department's *Trafficking in Persons* (TIP) 2010 Report (page 67). The TIP Report is based on information from a range of sources, including government and NGOs. This figure did not appear in the material provided by the Australian Government and the Attorney-General's Department is unable to comment on its source.