

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 153

Senator Faulkner asked the following question:

- a) What is the view of the AFP about women being deported from Australia within a day or two of being picked up working illegally in brothels in Australia?
- b) Does the AFP consider that they have enough time to ascertain whether these women have been trafficked into Australia?

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

- a) The AFP works closely with DIMIA to ensure an appropriate assessment of each case is undertaken prior to removal from Australia.
- b) The establishment of the Bridging Visa class 'F' affords the AFP a period of 30 days to fully assess a potential victim. This period enables the AFP to establish if the person has been a victim of trafficking.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND CUSTOMS

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Question No. 154

Senator Denman asked the following question:

What is the estimated size in dollar terms of the cannabis black market in Australia?

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

Estimating the size of illicit markets is an inherently difficult task. The Australian Crime Commission advises that it would be unable to accurately estimate the size in dollar terms of the cannabis black market in Australia. Based on seizure data from the 2002-03 *Illicit Drug Data Report*, the approximate size of the known illicit market is between \$154 million and \$307 million per annum.

The National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund is currently funding a three-year project on the illicit drug industry in Australia, led by Dr Glenda Adkins, which will develop an economic simulation model for markets in heroin, cocaine, amphetamines and cannabis. The project is expected to conclude in mid-2007.

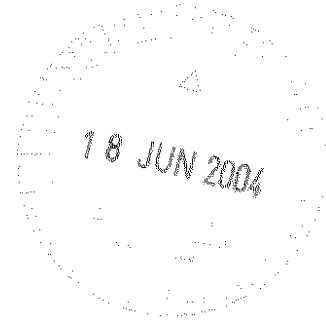


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15 June 2004

Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator

eCourt Integration

I refer to Estimates Hearing on 24 May 2004.

During the hearing, I indicated to the Committee that I would provide it with a copy of a consultant's report on the proposed integration of the Court's various eCourt initiatives. A copy of this report is enclosed.

The Court is looking to bring together a range of eCourt services and systems that will be accessed through a single web browser interface, to be known as '*my Files*', which can be customised by individual users to reflect their needs and real world business processes.

The nucleus of the *my Files* facility will be the Court's new case management system ('Casetrack') and document management system. The services available through *myFiles* will include:

- electronic lodgement (including payment of relevant fees), with an automatic link to the relevant file on the Court's case management system;
- electronic searches for 'non-contentious' case information and, in due course, electronic access by suitably authorised users (such as a party's legal representative) to more detailed case information and documents lodged in a matter;
- document generation;
- an interactive virtual courtroom similar to that currently provided by the Court's eCourt On-line Forum;
- an on-line scheduling facility to enable lawyers to submit electronic requests for hearing dates;
- evidence management;
- electronic transcript; and
- electronic judgments.

The Court is currently putting together detailed plans for how the recommendations in the report may be implemented. An important part of this planning process has been liaison with other federal courts and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to determine whether they might join the Court in developing the project.

If the Committee would like further information about this initiative, please contact me on (02) 9230 8237 or by email to Warwick.Soden@fedcourt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Soden', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Warwick Soden
Registrar and Chief Executive