

**SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

Question No. 9

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2006:

Is the AFP able to provide a full breakdown of its applicants by state or territory, and indicate how long they have been on the books?

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

In answer to the Senator's question I provide the following information in relation to the police recruitment applications being processed by the AFP as at 19 October, 2006

- As at 19 October 2006 the AFP has 2310 applications for employment as police and protective service officers. This is an increase from the 2282 mentioned at the 16 October Special Committee Hearing. This is despite the fact that the AFP has not had to initiate at this point in time, a campaign to recruit police personnel at the base level.
- The following table details the State Residence of the applicants for each of the operational streams in the AFP – 'Base Police' refers to applicants with no previous police experience, 'Lateral Police' are those with previous or existing service.

State	Base Police	Lateral Police	PSO	Total
ACT	223	10	48	281
NSW	506	91	187	784
NT	21	22	27	70
QLD	309	75	78	462
SA	63	19	31	113
TAS	16	5	4	25
VIC	260	59	53	372
WA	79	65	59	203
Total	1477	346	487	2310

- The Senator also sought details for lateral applicants of how many are currently serving State and Territory police, and how many are former members. An answer to this requires an examination of each application, and this work could not be completed in the time available. The AFP will examine all lateral applications and provide an answer to the Senator when this work is finished.

The following table shows the number of applicants by the amount of time they have been registered with the AFP recruitment area. Because PSO recruitment has only recently been moved to the AFP on-line system, the data is not available.

Time Period	Base	Lateral	Total
< 1 month	280	60	340
< 3 months	400	71	471
< 6 months	461	59	520
< 9 months	187	31	218
<12 Months	69	58	127
< 2 years	46	41	87
> 2 years	34	26	60
Total	1477	346	1823

- The AFP recruitment team contacts applicants on an ongoing basis by e-mail to establish their continued interest in joining the AFP. Where people notify the AFP of their change of intention, they are removed from the list.
- The AFP endeavours to maintain the highest possible quality in its police recruits. As such it does not offer applicants employment based on the date of their application, but rather by the assessed quality of the applicant and the skills being brought into the AFP.
- Not all applicants who wish to join the AFP accept the initial offer of engagement. Offers of engagement are based on staff planning, and some applicants refuse initial offers in order to possibly be offered a location of their preference.