

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

Output 2.1

Question No. 46

Senator Ludwig provided the following written question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

Regarding the budget measure '*Combating trafficking in persons – extension and expansion*':

- a) What services are available under this measure to persons who have been found to have been trafficked into Australia?
- b) What multi-lingual information regarding the entitlements for victims of trafficking is available?
 - i) Is this information made available to victims of trafficking?
 - ii) Provide a breakdown of the languages in which this information is available?
 - iii) Does the government have plans to establish a telephone service to allow victims of trafficking to access information about services available to them?

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

(a) The *Support for Victims of People Trafficking Programme* supports victims who are found to have been trafficked into Australia. Victims of trafficking who remain in Australia to assist trafficking investigations or prosecutions have access to a comprehensive range of support services. The programme will be expanded to include support for victims returning to Australia to give evidence in trafficking cases.

A case management approach is used for each victim with case managers providing individualised support measures based on expertly identified needs. Ongoing assistance includes income support, secure accommodation, access to medical services through Medicare and access to medicines via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, training including English language and skills development training, access to counselling and legal services, and social support.

(b) Information distributed as part of the Trafficking-Communication Awareness Strategy provides advice on how victims may seek assistance and support. Material includes a pamphlet, in six languages, containing detailed information about the relevant visa provisions and where to go for help or information; a plain covered diary containing a range of information about people trafficking; and a discrete card containing the AFP hotline number.

- i) Yes. The information has been distributed to a wide range of organisations that come into contact with, or provide support for, trafficking victims.
- ii) The information is available in English, Thai, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog.
- iii) No. Australian Government agencies which deal with trafficking victims and cases provide information on services and entitlements.

As part of the Communications Awareness Strategy, consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders to determine the most appropriate communication strategy. The information materials that were produced are considered to be the most effective means of communicating awareness about people trafficking to target audiences.