

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 96

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:

ASIO staffing is rising dramatically (from about 600 to more than 1800 within about 4-5 years – see budget media release). What extra protections in terms of governance, supervision, audit and accountability has ASIO management put in place to cope with these problems which may be caused by such rapid growth? If none, why not?

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

ASIO's new organisational structure provides clear points of focus for public accountability and corporate governance and ensures that there are reasonable spans of management responsibility at all levels.

In light of its growth ASIO has revised its corporate governance arrangements by refreshing its corporate committee structure, membership and reporting framework. Training and development strategies have also been revised and components on audit, governance and accountability included in programs ranging from the induction program for new starters through to training for Senior Officers. Detailed information on ASIO's corporate governance, audit and accountability can be found in ASIO's *Report to Parliament, Corporate Plan 2007–2011* and on ASIO's website (www.asio.gov.au).