

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 49**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2009:**

Provide further details with regard to the \$11,970 expended to provide Christmas messages to members.

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

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Christmas Message Program has been running for three years. The program is designed to provide support to the families and friends of AFP staff deployed in missions in the Northern Territory, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea during the Christmas period.

In 2008, AFP members deployed in the Northern Territory and in overseas missions recorded a message that stated who they were, what work they were performing and then a personal Christmas greeting to family and friends in Australia. The messages were prepared for radio and television audiences.

This program is an important public engagement activity for the AFP. Many of the deployed officers have family in Australia who know little about their duties. This program provides an opportunity for deployed members to engage their families and the Australian public about their work in the Northern Territory and overseas.