

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 49

Senator Brandis asked the following questions at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: I just want to focus narrowly now on the answer you have just given, and I would like you to tell the committee what particularly are the projects which the Australian Federal Police uses the confiscated assets account to fund in whole or part.

Mr Negus: I am probably best to take it on notice. I can tell you that the Australian Illicit Drug Data Centre, which the Minister for Home Affairs and I opened in Sydney last year, is funded out of the confiscated assets trust fund.

Senator BRANDIS: Entirely?

Mr Negus: Yes. Over four years I think it is in the order of \$8 million, if my memory serves me correctly. There was a one-year trial for the infamous spy plane that was spoken about here over the recent couple of years. That was funded from the confiscated assets trust fund. Since then, that has been absorbed into the AFP's core funding and we fund that out of our internal funding. There are right down to particular conferences or particular events that might be held that can be funded from that fund down to literally \$100,000 or less, so I will have to have a look at the list.

Senator BRANDIS: Are you able to tell me how much money was paid to the AFP from the confiscated assets account in the last financial year?

Mr Negus: I cannot tell you that now, but I can certainly take it on notice.

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Senator BRANDIS: I think you are answering the question before last. What I now want to know is: in the last financial year how much money has been paid to the AFP out of the confiscated assets account?

Mr Wood: So, the financial year 2009-10?

Senator BRANDIS: Yes.

Mr Wood: I will take that on notice.

Senator BRANDIS: Do you know?

Mr Negus: No, I do not.

Senator BRANDIS: Can you find out? This must be within your accounts. Can you find it out for me over the afternoon tea break and can I also burden you, Mr Wood, to find out how much money has been transferred to the AFP from the confiscated assets account so far this financial year?

Mr Negus: We will do our best and I will talk to our colleagues from Attorney-General's as well.

Senator BRANDIS: I have kept questions deliberately easy, so that they can be responded to promptly.

Mr Negus: We will do our best.

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

In 2009-10, the AFP received total funding of \$7.731 million from the POCA fund for:

- National Drug Precursor Risk Assessment capability (NDPRAC) - \$1.795 million over four years. This project aims to provide a rigorous risk-based assessment of illicit drug precursor chemicals to inform national policies to reduce domestic manufacture of illicit drugs.
- Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) - \$5.864 million over four years. This project will provide a means to collect and interrogate scientifically robust data monitoring illicit drug market indicators such as purity, method of production, precursor

chemical used and/or geographic origin. It will enable separate instances of drug related crime to be connected across domestic jurisdictions and enhance opportunities for forensics evidence to be presented in court in support of prosecutions.

- Asia Pacific Group Meeting - \$72,000 over one year. The Asia Pacific Group is a FATF-Style Regional Body, affiliated with the Financial Action Task Force, which aims to facilitate the adoption, implementation and enforcement of internationally accepted standards against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

In 2020-11, the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) received \$259,000. As planning for the conference spanned two financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11), the AFP is required to reimburse funds not expended in the 2010-2011 financial year, which amounts to \$72,788.08. Therefore the total attributed by confiscated assets towards the VGT conference in 2010-11 should reflect - \$186,211.92.