

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 48

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Mr Negus, do you have an officer responsible for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security within the AFP?

...

Mr Drennan: To my knowledge, we do not have a specific person. But we certainly support and contribute to that plan in general, particularly through our UN missions and non UN missions, where we are actively involved in developing women in policing, which is in accordance with that plan. We have some quite specific programs in which our people are involved in achieving the objectives of that plan.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you give us some more specifics, please. I am interested in what measures the AFP have put in place to implement this plan in Afghanistan, Syria, Mali and Sri Lanka.

...

Mr Drennan: In just about all the countries where we are doing capacity development work there is a focus on programs for women. Particularly in the Solomon Islands, we have done quite a few programs that support the development of women in policing.

Senator RHIANNON: Apart from Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands, any other countries?

Mr Drennan: Pretty much right through the Pacific. In all of the Pacific police development programs there are specific programs for women. It is a particular focus for us. Even in PNG we have done some specific programs. In Timor Leste we have done specific programs beyond women in policing but also catering for domestic violence and victims of domestic violence. Without trying to get specific for every particular country, it is a general theme of focus for us in all of our capacity development work in line with the objectives from the UN. We also have two senior officers from the IDG, one who is the assistant commissioner in charge, and also one former commander who was in charge of our deployment to Timor Leste who are actively involved in that program. As I recall, they presented at a particular conference on that program.

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you for that response. Could you take on notice to supply more details. I appreciate that it is focus. But if you could provide details on the numbers so that we can compare that to the males who you training and interacting with, that would be good. I would like to know how many women are you interacting with and training. If you could provide some more details on both the content and the outcome of these programs, that would be good.

Mr Negus: We are happy to do that. But we need to acknowledge upfront that we are starting from a pretty low base here in many of these countries. Women in policing roles is at the starting point. We are doing what we can to develop those people. What I was going to add was that we also second people into the AFP, particularly the international deployment group. Women come from Pacific countries and work for three or six months here in Australia and learn the skills so that they can apply them in their own countries. We are happy to provide all those details. But I want to warn you that it is starting from a low base and you would be—

Senator RHIANNON: Very much so. That is why it is important to get it down—so that we can see how it develops. If you can give the quantitative figures so that we can make the comparison that would be good.

Mr Negus: Certainly. We will do that.

Senator RHIANNON: Is there a government coordination point to manage interdepartmental coordination with civil society efforts relating to the implementation of this plan?

Mr Drennan: To give you a precise answer, I would need to take that on notice. I suspect that it is through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. They take on a coordination role in relation to the development of any of those programs that are of an international nature.

Senator RHIANNON: I was hoping that we could get an answer here, because this one is hard to pin down. Do you have a liaison officer that you engage with so that there is some cross-consultation between departments?

Mr Drennan: As I said, we are heavily engaged with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in relation to all of our activities overseas. Likewise, we are heavily engaged and have a liaison officer with AusAID, which picks up responsibility there as well. We also have a liaison officer with the civil military centre, which deals with a whole range of peacekeeping activities on both the civilian and military sides. We have a liaison officer attached to the United Nations in New York. We are involved in a whole different range of forums and groups that pick up various parts of these responsibilities. Whether or not there is a specific person and a specific interdepartmental

committee on this I do not know. But I can certainly take that on notice for you to try and assist you as to where you may best direct that question.

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Within that, are you reporting regularly to someone and are those reports made public?

Mr Drennan: I will need to take that on notice. If there is a requirement for us to report our activities, certainly with AusAID in anything that we do with ODA funding there are fairly comprehensive reporting requirements around that, which we do. In fact, AusAID have provided the feedback to us that we are one of the more comprehensive reporters there and are able to articulate the programs we have to a very high level. But again, to get a specific answer for you I will just need to come back to you.

Senator RHIANNON: Okay, thank you.

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

Implementation of National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

The Australian Federal Police (AFP), represented by its International Deployment Group (IDG), was involved in the drafting of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, and welcomes its implementation. The AFP is committed to supporting the five strategies as set out under the National Action Plan and principles of development effectiveness.

The IDG represents the AFP at SES 1 level on the Women, Peace and Security Interdepartmental Working Group (WG) which is chaired by the Office for Women (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) and is the primary Australian Government mechanism responsible for Australia's implementation of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1325. Terms of Reference were endorsed at a meeting of the WG on 24 April 2013. Biennial progress reports are to be tabled in Parliament commencing in 2014. A meeting of the WG's 2014 Progress Sub-Committee including representation from AFP is scheduled to take place on 26 June 2013.

The AFP is also in discussions with the Australian Civil Military Centre (ACMC) and the Australian National Committee for UN Women (National Committee) to enhance its involvement in Australia's engagement with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

IDG Gender Strategy

In addition to the above, the IDG is currently developing a Gender Strategy which will guide the IDG in its implementation of the recommendations of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This Gender Strategy will also be used as a guiding tool during the design phase of IDG's capacity development missions overseas and will address women in policing, access to policing services for women and the involvement of women in the peace process.

The IDG Gender Strategy will also be incorporated into the Pre-Deployment Training undertaken by all members prior to their deployment into overseas capacity building missions.

UNMISS UNPOL Women's Network

An IDG representative was instrumental in the development of the Women's Network (WN) within both the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the UN Police. The purpose of the Women's Network is to promote the strength and advance the profile of female police within Peacekeeping missions. The aim of the network is to assist women in achieving their full potential and to develop strategies which will focus on increasing the overall number of women in missions, including but not limited to, management positions.

The role of the IDG representative was Focal Point of the WN and included ensuring WN Induction Briefings were provided to all UNMISS UNPOL Inductees.

Overseas Capacity Development Missions

The IDG currently focuses on the participation of women in policing through its capacity development initiatives. Below are a few illustrative examples from current missions:

- The Pacific Police Development Program - Regional (PPDP-R) provides support to the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) Women's Advisory Network (WAN) – e.g. 11 female Police officers from 10 Pacific Island nations recently attended a Leadership Development Program, a Mentoring and Coaching workshop and a PICP WAN workshop in at the Australian Institute of Police Management. This workshop was funded by PPDP-R and included female mentors from the AFP.
- In Afghanistan, the AFP has developed and implemented a 'Violence Against Women Program' which has been adopted as a mainstream program of the European Union Police in its support for the Afghan National Police. The program is designed to teach the participants specific skills to deal with offences which directly impact on women in Afghanistan. Human rights issues are also covered as part of the Afghan Ministry of Interior approved Basic Patrolman's Course, Leadership Management Course and management training for supervisors at the Police Training Centre. Participants study human rights and gender issues as part of these courses.
- In Timor Leste, the IDG works closely with NGOs at a country level to promote responses to issues such as domestic violence through the East Timor Women's Communication Forum as well as the refurbishment and support of facilities for women and children suffering domestic violence.

The below tables illustrate the number of male and female law and justice officials trained offshore by the IDG for the first three quarters of the 2012-13 financial year, by mission.

Note: The IDG does not have a capacity building presence in Syria, Mali or Sri Lanka

Jan to Mar			Oct to Dec		Jul to Sept		Totals	
1. Attendees Home Country	4. Number of males trained off-shore	4. Number of females trained off-shore	4. Number of males trained off-shore	4. Number of females trained off-shore	4. Number of males trained off-shore	4. Number of females trained off-shore	4. Number of males trained off-shore	4. Number of females trained off-shore
Tonga	96	34	493	114	25	83	614	231
Fiji	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Solomon Islands	219	0	159	32	615	108	993	140
Samoa	51	7	53	22	40	10	144	39
Republic of Marshal Islands	12	1	1	0	0	0	13	1
Vanuatu	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Cook Islands	6	0	4	2	0	0	10	2
PNG	119	33	1	0	0	0	120	33
Nauru	26	14	5	2	54	19	85	35
Kiribati	18	7	4	0	0	0	22	7
Federated States of Micronesia	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Tuvalu	1	0	6	0	0	0	7	0
Afgan	132	5	337	0	298	0	767	5
Timor Leste	64	40	75	13	399	44	538	97
Niue	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Palau	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Marshall Island	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	752	141	1140	186	1431	264	3323	591