

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 391

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What direct measures has the Minister for Justice and Customs taken to address these insufficiencies?

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

The ANAO Report did not make any comments about insufficient staffing resources in the context of the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database.

Paragraph 2.35 of the ANAO Report, under the heading "National Child Sex Offender System", states in part: "CrimTrac advised that there were also insufficient staffing resources in the CPRS Capability Development Programme team to progress this project".

The National Child Sex Offender System has been subsumed by the Australian National Child Offender Register. Following allocation of additional funding, CrimTrac engaged additional contract IT staff to build ANCOR, which was launched by the Minister of Justice and Customs on 1 September 2004.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 392

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Relating to ANCOR and its predecessor NCSOS, what was the total amount of funding made available from this project by:

- a) The Commonwealth?
- b) The states and territories?

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

- a) \$1,713,333.
- b) \$1,426,666.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 393

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

At the time of the launch of ANCOR, was the system operational?

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

Yes, ANCOR became operational on 1 September 2004.

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Question No. 394

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Is it operational now? If not, when does CrimTrac expect it to be operational?

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

ANCOR was operational on 1 September 2004.

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Question No. 395

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Referring to Finding 2.35 of the 2004 ANAO Report into the Implementation of CrimTrac:

- a) Who was the source of the advice to the ANAO that there insufficient staffing resources in the CPRS Capability Development Programme Team to progress the NCSOS/ANCOR project?
- b) What form did this advice take (i.e. written or oral)?

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

- a) The source is unknown.
- b) The form cannot be determined.

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Question No. 396

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Regarding the \$15,000 consultancy fees paid to Sigma Management Services as itemised in the 2003-04 annual report. Can the department provide details as to the nature of goods and/or services provided?

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

The contract was established at the request of the CrimTrac Board of Management to conduct an independent review of project management of the Minimum Nationwide Policing Profile project and to report directly to the board.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 397

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What progress has been made on decommissioning the PRS systems that are behind schedule? What are the obstacles to decommissioning the PRS systems? Has a date been determined for the decommissioning to occur?

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

Decommissioning of any PRS system will be dependent on the evolving capability of the CPRS programme. The only PRS systems decommissioned to date is the Electronic White Pages (EWP) system which was replaced with the new Telephone Directory Service (TDS) on 1 November 2004.

The decommissioning schedule for PRS systems will also be dependent on each police service's ability to fund and implement the new technologies and functionality within their respective IT environments.

A final decommission date has not been determined.

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Question No. 398

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What was the rationale behind funding jurisdictions to conduct the MNPP trial?

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

Both New South Wales and Victoria advised the CrimTrac Board of Management that they had insufficient funding available to contribute to project costs and undertake the work in their jurisdictions.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement states that CrimTrac will support jurisdictions in the implementation and use of CrimTrac services.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 399

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What is the effect of this funding on the CPRS budget?

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

It is estimated that \$1.5 million will be spent in New South Wales and Victoria. There has been no supplementation to cover this cost or change to the overall budget for CPRS.

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Question No. 400

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

At what stage of development are the national vetting guidelines? When are they expected to be completed?

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

Each jurisdiction has its own legislation and information release policies and the agency has a documented process to facilitate multi-jurisdictional vetting in accordance with state and territory legislation to release criminal history information.

This process has been in place since 1 October 2003 in line with the commencement of the National Criminal History Record Checking initiative and is reviewed regularly with all jurisdictions to incorporate changes in legislation.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 401

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Has the communications strategy been completed? If not, when will it be completed?

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

The CrimTrac Communication Strategy was completed and presented to the CrimTrac Board of Management on 24 February 2004.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 402

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What impact does the lack of a communications strategy have on CrimTrac's ability to successfully resolve jurisdictional difficulties?

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

CrimTrac's Communication Strategy is complete (see answer to Question Number 401).

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Question No. 403

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Has CrimTrac asked a) the Minister or b) the Attorney-General to advance the legislative reform through either the Council of Attorneys-General or the Prime Minister?

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

a) No.

b) No.

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Question No. 404

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What efforts did CrimTrac take to make a) the Minister for Justice and Customs or b) the Attorney-General aware of legislative difficulties in dealing with nine jurisdictions?

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

- a) The Minister for Justice and Customs was updated via briefings regularly on particular difficulties arising from CrimTrac needing to deal with nine jurisdictions and their disparate legislative arrangements.
- b) The Attorney-General was briefed on the outline of the legislative difficulties in the agency briefing provided on 26 November 2003.

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Question No. 405

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What measures have a) the Attorney-General and b) the Minister for Justice and Customs undertaken to ensure a formal agreement between jurisdictions that clearly defines the role and responsibilities of each partner?

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

The Minister and his state and territory counterparts signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement in 2000 outlining the roles of the respective partners including responsibilities and commitments. This was further refined in the CrimTrac Charter of Governance, noted by the CrimTrac Board of Management in February 2003.

In response to the ANAO recommendations and to augment the IGA the agency has initiated the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and all jurisdictions in which roles, responsibilities and obligations are further defined and agreed. Negotiations have commenced with all jurisdictions, and the national process is expected to be finalised by March 2005.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Question No. 406

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Relating to the implementation of the CPRS project, how many briefings has CrimTrac made addressed to a) the Attorney-General and b) the Minister for Justice and Customs relating to jurisdictional difficulties in the implementation of CPRS? What were the dates of these briefings?

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

a) One, on 26 November 2003.

b) Several, as part of overall briefings by the CEO of CrimTrac on the status of CrimTrac programmes and projects. These normally took place in advance of APMC meetings where CrimTrac was an agenda item. The dates are as follows: 26 June 2001, 27 November 2001, 17 July 2002, 5-6 November 2002, 2 July 2003, 11 November 2003, 30 June 2004 and 17 November 2004.