Question No. 407

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Relating to the implementation of the NCSOS/ANCOR 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 NCSOS/ANCOR? What were the dates of these briefings?

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

a) One, on 26 November 2003. General agency brief including the ANCOR Project.

b) Several, as part of overall briefings by the CEO of CrimTrac on the status of NCSOS/ANCOR. 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, 5-6 November 2002, 2 July 2003, 11 November 2003, 30 June 2004 and 17 November 2004.

Question No. 408

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Relating to the implementation of the NCIDD, 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 NCIDD? What were the dates of these briefings?

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

a) One, on 26 November 2003. General Agency brief including the NCIDD Project.

b) Several: 19 September 2001, Incoming Government Brief; 2 July 2002, CEO Briefing-Perth; 20 October 2002, Post Bali brief; November 2002, Senate Estimates Brief; 5 November 2003, CrimTrac Liaison Officer briefing.

The status of DNA legislation was also included in the briefing prior to the APMC meeting of 5-6 November 2002.

In addition to these briefings by the CEO of CrimTrac, the inaugural chairman of the Crimtrac Board, Mr Ian Carnell, the then General Manager, Criminal Justice and Security Group of the Attorney-General's Department, kept the Minister regularly informed on CrimTrac's progress.

Question No. 409

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

- a) Which ANAO project was approved without a budget?
- b) What was the cost of the project?
- c) What is the current status of the project?

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

- a) CrimTrac has sought clarification from the ANAO on this matter and believes that the project in question is the creation of the External Agency Management System (EAMS). This was a tool developed using approved recurrent funding and was undertaken to enhance an existing system. The initial enhancements were a modest amount of work and therefore were not established as a formal project in its own right. Subsequently EAMS was found to require further refinement and in view of higher expenditure than was forecast was later established as a project in its own right and with its own budget.
- b) CrimTrac estimates that \$385,000 was spent on EAMS before it became a formal project.
- c) EAMS is currently being redeveloped to better serve the needs of the agency and the jurisdictions in managing accredited agency queries through the National Criminal History Checking service and is therefore an active project with an approved budget of \$213,000 for Stage 2 and \$115,000 for a Stage 3 business case.

Question No. 410

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Is the Project Control Committee still in existence? When did it last meet? What were the dates and locations of its meetings between 2001 and its last meeting?

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

The project control committee, termed the CrimTrac Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) is still in existence and is responsible for the internal coordination of CrimTrac resources and the prioritisation of the use of those resources on CrimTrac projects. Its most recent meeting was held on 10 December 2004. All of its meetings are held on site at CrimTrac.

2001:	2002:	2003:	2004:
23 August	7 January	14 January	20 January
4 September	21 January	4 February	17 February
17 September	7 February	18 February	5 April
27 September	26 February	18 March	20 April
5 October	12 March	15 April	27 May
17 October	26 March	13 May	1 July
30 October	9 April	27 May	17 August
13 November	22 April	10 June	6 September
3 December	7 May	22 July	15 September
17 December	28 May	19 August	1 October
	18 June	2 September	8 November
	2 July	30 September	10 December
	19 July	14 October	
	30 July	28 October	
	13 August	11 November	
	27 August		
	24 September		
	8 October		
	11 November		
	3 December		
	17 December		

Question No. 411

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What measures has CrimTrac taken to establish an arrangement to more effectively co-ordinate projects, given finding 4.83 the 2004 ANAO Report into the Implementation of CrimTrac that the project Co-ordination committee is "not effective in its role of providing operational and strategic co-ordination of the agency's projects"?

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

CrimTrac has continued to strengthen the use of the CrimTrac Programme and Project Management Framework (CPPMF) which is based on the PRINCE2 project management methodology.

The emphasis has been to improve performance of the Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) and individual project boards through PRINCE2 training all staff engaged on projects. An evaluation of CrimTrac's use of the CPPMF has been commissioned and results indicate that the framework meets recognised PRINCE2 standards.

Question No. 412

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Has the CrimTrac identified a shortfall in funding?

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

As well as establishing the agency, the initial \$50 million Commonwealth contribution has funded the completion and enhancement of the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System, the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database system, the Commonwealth's contribution to the Australian National Child Offender Register system, and the pilot of the Minimum Nationwide Person Profile (MNPP) system, as well as much of the common services and infrastructure requirements.

At the completion of the MNPP pilot CrimTrac expects that the remaining funds will be insufficient to fully roll-out the MNPP system to all jurisdictions and to undertake the vehicles and firearms initiatives identified by CrimTrac as falling within the scope of 'the rapid access to national operational policing data' stipulated in the IGA.

Continuing funding arrangements for CrimTrac are a matter for the CrimTrac Board.

Question No. 413

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What projects areas or measures are specifically under funded?

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

At the completion of the MNPP pilot CrimTrac expects that the remaining funds will be insufficient to fully roll-out the MNPP system to all jurisdictions and to undertake the vehicles and firearms initiatives identified by CrimTrac as falling within the scope of 'the rapid access to national operational policing data' stipulated in the IGA.

Question No. 414

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What steps have been taken to ensure that NAFIS complies with CrimTrac security policy, specifically in relation to the functionality of NAFIS to supply password history.

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

Existing security is considered adequate, however CrimTrac is currently progressing an upgrade to the operational NAFIS system intended to resolve the password history issue and further strengthen data security and integrity of the system. A new version of the core NAFIS software is proposed for purchase in March 2005 and installation will be completed in late 2005.

Question No. 415

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

When does CrimTrac expect the Australian National Child Offender Register going to be operational?

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

ANCOR became operational on 1 September 2004.

Question No. 416

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

I refer you to a recent audit report from the Australian National Auditor General concerning this project.

- a) Does CrimTrac agree with the findings of that audit report?
- b) If not, in what respects does CrimTrac disagree with the audit report?

c) If CrimTrac agrees with the report, what measures has CrimTrac implemented to adopt its findings and recommendations?

d) When shall these measures be implemented?

e) Does CrimTrac have in place any policy to assess the effectiveness of such measures?

f) If so, what is the assessment?

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

There were no recommendations specific to ANCOR. The recommendations made, however, affect all agency projects to some degree.

- a) The agency agreed with all the recommendations.
- b) Not applicable
- c) An implementation plan was developed and approved by the CrimTrac Board of Management on 1 September 2004. This plan is monitored by CrimTrac's Audit Committee.
- d) Specific actions are in progress and all are expected to be completed by June 2005.
- e) The implementation plan is regularly reviewed by the CrimTrac Board of Management and CrimTrac's Audit Committee.
- f) The Audit Committee observed that the stated timeframes are being met.

Question No. 417

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

When is CrimTrac expected to finish the technical infrastructure to support the register?

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

CrimTrac finished the technical infrastructure required to support ANCOR prior to its launch on 1 September 2004.

Question No. 418

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What is the nature of the technical infrastructure that CrimTrac is developing?

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

CrimTrac is both modernising and replacing information and communications technology (ICT) to ensure that police are provided with rapid access to national operational policing data. This has involved increasing available bandwidth between CrimTrac and jurisdictions and accelerating the dataflow across communication lines.

In addition, CrimTrac is assembling an array of application/web servers linked to a large database server. All infrastructure complies with Commonwealth Security Guidelines. The new infrastructure will be used as the base for development of new CrimTrac systems that should eventually replace the current legacy mainframe systems CrimTrac took over from NEPI.