

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ASIO

Question No. 111

Senator Ludwig tabled the following questions on 31 October 2005:

Five year strategic plan unveiled for ASIO

- (a) Could you provide the timeframe in which you intend to grow the ASIO staffing levels, in more details than 1,860 by 2010-11?
- (b) Could you indicate which areas of ASIO the additional staff are intended for deployment?
- (c) How much additional funding is allocated specifically for the purpose of increasing the staff, broken down by each area in which the staffing levels are to be increased?
- (d) Has any initial recruitment rounds been done so far for the increased staffing levels?
 - (i) If so, how many additional have been recruited so far?
- (e) Is there any increased recruitment drive advertising?
 - (i) How much has been allocated to increased recruitment drive advertising?
 - (ii) Where has it been advertised?
- (f) Has there been an increase in the entrant of graduates from universities?
 - (i) What has been this increase?
- (g) Where are the additional staff going to be sourced from?
- (h) Elsewhere in the intelligence or law enforcement community?

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

- (a) ASIO is planning to grow around 170 additional staff for the first four financial years, with the residual in the fifth year. This strategy will achieve the target of 1,860 by 2010-11.
- (b) ASIO is planning to grow across all areas of the Organisation. The additional resourcing will enhance ASIO's intelligence collection, assessment and operational capabilities, and improve information technology systems.
- (c) ASIO does not publish financial data below Organisational level for reasons of security.
- (d) (i) ASIO has already commenced recruiting for its increased staffing level- including in areas such as recruitment, finance, intelligence officers and SES Managers. ASIO does ongoing recruitment, not 'rounds' of recruitment.
- (e) (i) ASIO does not provide details of this nature
(ii) ASIO advertises in the media, on its website, and through various recruitment companies.
- (f) (i) Graduates from universities are employed across a wide range of areas within the Organisation. ASIO does not disclose specific statistics on how many of its employees have degrees.
- (g) - (h) ASIO does not target the intelligence or law enforcement community to source potential staff. ASIO advertises positions publicly and vacancies are filled through a merit selection process.