

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ANALYSIS CENTRE

Question No. 126

Senator Ludwig tabled the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) How much of the funding provided for Strengthening Regional FIUs has been expended?
- b) Has all funding been expended?
 - (i) If not, how much funding has yet to be expended?
- c) Was there any variation to the stated budget for this program?
 - (i) If so, what was the variation?
 - (ii) Was additional funding provided, or did the program lose funding?
 - (iii) If the program lost funding, where was the funding transferred, and why?
 - (iv) Were any stop-gap measures put in place to ensure the continued operation of this program despite the variations?
- d) What was the stated outcome of the program at the time the funding commenced?
 - (i) Did the program meet its stated outcome?
 - (ii) If not, in which areas did it not meet its stated outcome?
 - (iii) Were any other measures or additional funding required to meet the stated outcome of the program?
- e) Has a review been conducted of the program?
 - (i) If so, could you provide a copy?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
 - (iii) Is one being conducted, or will one be conducted?
 - (iv) Are there any interim reports available?
 - (v) Are there any plans to produce any interim reports?

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

- a) As at 31 October 2005, AUSTRAC has expended \$2.1 million of the South East Asia Counter Terrorism (SEACT) program budget.
- b) No.
 - (i) \$7.1 million is yet to be expended.
- c) At this stage, no variation in the budget is forecasted.
 - (i) Not applicable
 - (ii) Not applicable
 - (iii) Not applicable

- (iv) Not applicable
- d) The outcome of the four year South East Asia Counter Terrorism (SEACT) Program is to enhance the capacity of counterpart organisations in ten South East Asian jurisdictions in detecting and dealing with money laundering and terrorist financing activity.
 - (i) The SEACT program is a four phase program and is expected to be delivered over four years.
 - (ii) Not applicable
 - (iii) At this stage no other measures or additional funding are anticipated to be required to meet the stated outcome of the program.
- e) A review of the SEACT Program has not been conducted.
 - (i) Not applicable
 - (ii) A formal review of the SEACT program has not been conducted as the program is currently in its second year of delivery.
 - (iii) A formal review of the SEACT program will be conducted in the final phase (phase 4) in 2007-2008. This will involve an assessment and evaluation of the program and deliver recommendations for future capacity building initiatives.
 - (iv) An interim report has been provided to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
 - (v) Yes.