

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

Question No. 127

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005

- a) How much of the funding provided for financial intelligence intensive training 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) All the specific funding provided for this program was fully expended in each financial year. This program is continuing as part of AUSTRAC's on-going work and is now fully funded through appropriation.
- b) All the specific funding provided for this program was fully expended in each financial year.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- c) There was no variation to the stated budget for this program.
 - (i) Not Applicable.

- (ii) Not Applicable.
 - (iii) Not Applicable.
 - (iv) Not Applicable.
- d) To create a law enforcement agency support team that would provide intensive training and support on the use of AUSTRAC financial intelligence, for major drug and intelligence units.
 - (i) Yes. The program is well received by AUSTRAC's partner agencies.
 - (ii) Not Applicable.
 - (iii) No.
- e) As this programme is now part of AUSTRAC's underlying partner liaison and support work, AUSTRAC reviews the outcomes of its partner liaison and support work as part of its normal internal business reporting process. AUSTRAC has also provided input to the Attorney-General's Department as part of an overview of the implementation of the National Illicit Drugs Strategy (NIDS), conducted by the Cabinet Implementation Unit (CIU) within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2004. The CIU review included in its scope NIDS programmes delivered by AUSTRAC (including the Financial Intelligence Intensive Training Programme). The CIU summarised the AUSTRAC input in an attachment to its report, but did not comment on it. The CIU review was not a programme evaluation of individual NIDS initiatives.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) As this programme is now part of AUSTRAC's underlying partner liaison and support work, AUSTRAC reviews the outcomes of its partner liaison and support work as part of its normal internal business reporting process. The CIU review noted that the Intensive Training and Support Programme would be part of a portfolio wide budget review prior to October 2007.
 - (iv) No.
 - (v) No.