SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
CRIMTRAC

Question No. 134

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

a) Could CrimTrac indicate all additional functionality that NAFIS is intended to introduce?
b) Why is this functionality needed?
c) Can you indicate how the need for the increased functionality was identified?
d) How many hand-held devices are going to be purchased and provided under the new upgrade?
    (i) Could you indicate the cost of these devices?
    (ii) What additional functionality are these devices intended to add to the existing systems?
e) What is the timeframe for the deployment of the additional functionality?
f) Could you provide a copy of the timeline, including all key dates?
    (i) Have we passed any key dates, or deadlines so far in the deployment?
    (ii) Have these all been met?
    (iii) If not, which ones have not been met?
    (iv) Has a workaround been provided for the functionality that has not yet been met?
g) Could you indicate what constitutes 'lights out tenprint processing'? What exactly is it, and how does it work?
h) Have any other requests for more Livescan devices (other than in Queensland and Western Australia) been received?
    (i) If so, who made the request, and have they been filled
    (ii) (if not, why not)?

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

a) Key changes to be introduced by NAFIS include:

- The implementation of the latest version of SAGEM's MetaMorpho AFIS operating system, Version 3.1, with generic system design improvements and enhanced capabilities. This includes the migration of user NAFIS PC's to the XP operating system (from windows NT)
- Jurisdictional enhancements to the Australian "customisation" of SAGEM's MetaMorpho AFIS software to provide improvements to system workflow and processes designed to enhance user productivity and system usability within the policing environment. The generic SAGEM MetaMorpho and jurisdictional enhancements include the following major changes:

    a. New system monitoring tools (administrative support)
    b. Improved latent (crime scene evidence) scanning
    c. Improved image enhancement tools
    d. Fingerprint sequence check verification (to improve data quality)
    e. Minutiae association tools
    f. Web based training program
    g. Person-to-person search upgrade (additional finger matching to increase system matching accuracy).
    h. Case-to-person search upgrade (new closed search functionality)
    i. New data security model
    j. Add ACT region/remove O region
    k. Juvenile person-to-person matching algorithm

l. Automated (linked) person to crime search
m. Import of person record lists (suspect data)
n. Master reference printing option
o. Single registration event selection
p. View and redirect dossiers from jurisdictional and remote AFIS sites
q. Multi query demographic search capability for crime cases and person records
r. Minutiae markers available within the person data update screen

- New fingerprint and palm print matching systems
- Biometric server to enable hand held fingerprint device integration

b) The upgrade has been implemented to achieve three main goals
- To enhance AFIS matching accuracy
- To improve business continuity and data security capability
- To enhance jurisdictional business processes

c) The requirements for new NAFIS functionality were identified and managed by the following process:
- Jurisdictional requests for NAFIS enhancement through a user advisory group
- Review and prioritisation of enhancement specifications and estimated cost of new software development by CrimTrac and Jurisdictional representatives
- Preparation of a business case in support of the upgrade
- Review by the Crimtrac Strategic Issues Group
- Approval by the CrimTrac Board of Management

d) None will be purchased or provided as part of the 3.1 Upgrade NAFIS project. The individual police services will be responsible for the purchase of hand held devices as the technology is adopted in each State or Territory.

(i) The cost will be dependent upon the number of devices required by State or Territory police services and the level of customisation they request from the biometric device vendor.
(ii) The devices will allow operational police to positively identify persons of interest in the field.

e) Additional functionality provided as noted in a) of question 134 will be delivered between July 2005 and June 2006.

f) The key dates related to major deliverables of the project are as follows:

July 2005 (completed): Stage 1 - Specifications sign off/databases restructure and project planning documents.

December 2005 (on schedule for completion on 4 December 2005): Stage 2 - Delivery of MetaMorpho 3.1 software with part 1 of the new Australian customisations (jurisdiction enhancements), migration of NAFIS user interface PCs to Windows XP.

March 2006: Stage 3 - Implementation of the new MetaMatcher finger and palm matching subsystem (new biometric matching algorithms) and part 2 of the new Australian customisations (jurisdiction enhancements).

June 2006: Stage 4 - Implementation of Web Based Fingerprint record archive system.

(i) Yes.

     (ii) Yes.
     (iii) Not Applicable.
     (iv) No.

g) 'Lights Out' processing is the term used to describe a fully automated fingerprint to fingerprint (arrest information) match process using AFIS technology. In the case of the NAFIS in Australia the upgrade is designed to provide enhance matching accuracy by using new matching algorithms and additional fingerprint biometric data within the matching process.

The 'Lights Out' process is expected to allow data sent from a police Livescan device to the NAFIS system in Canberra, searched, matched and a result returned to the operational policing environment without additional human (fingerprint expert) intervention. This will allow the real time identification of persons of interest to police within the lock-up environment so that well informed operational decisions can be made in relation to that person.

h) CrimTrac does not supply Livescan devices to the State and Territory police services. CrimTrac provides integration between Livescan devices owned and operated by the various police agencies and the NAFIS central site in Canberra.

     (i) No requests on CrimTrac for Livescan devices have been made.
     (ii) Providing Livescan devices is not a CrimTrac responsibility.