

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Question No. 154

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

- a) Please provide updated figures on the number of prosecutions and charges that are currently being brought against persons accused of human trafficking?
- b) Of the ten defendants mentioned at the last estimates hearing who are currently being prosecuted, do we have any information as to how those cases concluded?
 - (i) How many were convicted?
 - (ii) How many of the cases are ongoing?
- c) Since that time, how many further human trafficking, sexual servitude or slavery cases has the CDPP initiated?
 - (i) Are any of those concluded?
 - (ii) If so, what was the outcome?
 - (iii) If not, when are they expected to be concluded?

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

a) –c) Human trafficking is taken to include sexual servitude and/or sexual slavery prosecutions. In Question No. 223 the CDPP provided information about 10 defendants being prosecuted in relation to sexual servitude. At that time the CDPP was also prosecuting four defendants in relation to sexual slavery. There is a suppression order in place in relation to one matter.

Since the last estimates hearing a further defendant has been located and joined to an existing matter in Melbourne.

Since the last estimates hearing a jury was unable to reach a verdict on charges against three defendants in Sydney. This matter was unable to proceed to a re-trial as the individual involved was not willing to provide further evidence and accordingly these prosecutions were discontinued.

All other matters are ongoing and at this stage are expected to conclude in 2006.